

THE C4 NEWSLETTER

Fall 2016

Volume 24, Number 3



Exciting Discoveries:

(Left) 1616 Bermuda "Hogge Money" Twopence, in an Old Bermuda Collection
(Right) 1693 Yemeni *Khums Kabir*, dug at an early Rhode Island Site

Featured in this issue:

- President's Message
- C4 Member is A.N.A. Numismatist of the Year
- Book Review: Syd Martin's French Coins Specifically for America
- How Connecticut Coppers Made Their Way Into Commerce
- Remembering the Life of Geoffrey P. Stevens
- Massachusetts Witch Pieces - Revisited
- The U.S.A.: Born in New Jersey?
- *Plata Corriente*
- Treasure in a Junk Box
- Red Sea Piracy Evidence:
An Arabian Coin Recovered in Southern New England
- All Things Must Pass
- Coins of Interest in the Newman Money Museum
- Spanish Coin-Type Buttons Recovered in NJ
- Announcements and Advertisements



Highlights from the Stack's Bowers Galleries

Official C4 Auction

at the Whitman Coin & Collectibles Expo
November 2-4, 2016 | Baltimore, Maryland

Including the Carolina Colonial Coin Collection,
the Anderson-Gleckler Collection of nearly 300 varieties
of Connecticut coppers and other important properties.



1652 Oak Tree Shilling. Noe-11, Salmon 9-Fi, W-510. Rarity-6. IN at Bottom. EF-40 (PCGS). From the Carolina Colonial Coin Collection.



1787 Immunis Columbia Copper / Large Eagle Reverse. W-5680. Plain Edge. AU-55 (PCGS). CAC. From the Carolina Colonial Coin Collection. Ex Oechsner-Royse.



1724 Pattern Rosa Americana Twopence. Martin 6.1-1.1, W-1362. Rarity-7+. Specimen-53 (PCGS). From the Carolina Colonial Coin Collection. Ex Nelson-Ryder-Boyd-Craige.



1786 New Jersey Copper. Maris 24-Q, W-4970. Rarity-7+. Narrow Shield, Curved Plow Beam. VF-20 (PCGS). A Newly Discovered Specimen.



1786 Connecticut Copper. Miller 5.2-I, W-2550. Rarity-4. Mailed Bust Left. AU-58 (PCGS). From the Anderson-Gleckler Collection. Ex Garrett.



1787 Connecticut Copper. Miller 33.7-r.4, W-3450. Rarity-6. Draped Bust Left. AU-50 (PCGS). From the Anderson-Gleckler Collection. Ex Hessberg.



1788 Connecticut Copper. Miller 7-F.2, W-4485. Rarity-6. Mailed Bust Left. AU-53 (PCGS). From the Anderson-Gleckler Collection. Ex Garrett.



1787 Fugio Copper. Pointed Rays. Newman 11-A, W-6780. Rarity-6. UNITED Above, STATES Below, 4 Cinquefoils. AU-55 (PCGS). From the Carolina Colonial Coin Collection. Ex Boyd-Ford.



1787 Fugio Copper. Pointed Rays. Newman 11-B, W-6785. Rarity-4. UNITED STATES, 4 Cinquefoils. MS-64 BN (PCGS).

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – FALL 2016

(Jim Rosen)

{PLEASE PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE INFORMATION IN BOLD}

As I write my final President's Message, I can't help but reflect on the issues that our C4 board has dealt with and the accomplishments that our board has made and our club has benefited from over these past 6 years, the most significant issue I believe began 10 minutes after I was "sworn" in as President, that being finding a new home for our convention and a new auctioneer for C4. The Boston location was no longer an option and McCawley and Grellman after 15+ years of wonderful service to C4 and the auction, decided it was time to retire from being our auctioneer. After a lot of work behind the scenes, the fall Whitman Baltimore show was our new home and Stack Bowers was our new Auctioneer. Subsequently to that agreement, we developed a wonderful working relationship with Stacks Bowers...and six years in, we couldn't be happier. Our board should be very proud of the work that they have done.

If you will allow me to indulge you a bit, it has truly been a pleasure and an honor to be your President for the past 6 years. You know the old saying, to be a good President just surround yourself with talented people willing to work hard and give of their time and energy. And that I have done. C4 has a wonderful Board of Directors, who have been the guiding light behind this club, and have taken C4 to I believe a new level. Knowing that having just one meeting a year was going to be difficult in order to manage all the matters that this club has to deal with, I instituted conference calls every three months, where these on air meetings have allowed the board to operate more efficiently and in a timelier manner. As many of you know, C4 and EAC have just recently formed an association with each other, which I am confident will strengthen our clubs, enlarge our membership and most importantly allow each club to have two conventions per year. Camaraderie is an integral part of this club heritage and EAC's as well and having two conventions per year certainly enhances the member's experiences. These two conventions per year should also greatly increase the number of members who can attend the convention, be it in November or April.

As promised from my first President's Message, these communications are the lifeline of our club and, together with our new and improved website, allow members who can't always make the convention to keep up to date with what is going on with C4 and the hobby in general, with our auction reports and to keep abreast with outstanding scholarly articles. **And, speaking of keeping up, two of our most recent books, *Abel Buell and the History of the Connecticut and Fugio Coinages* by Chris McDowell and *French Coinage Specifically for Colonial America* by Syd Martin received Extraordinary Merit awards from the Numismatic Literary Guild at this summer's ANA. In addition, Ray Williams was awarded by the Numismatic Bibliomania Society, the 2016 NBS Jack Collins Award for best new author in *The Asylum*. Last, but certainly not least, John Kraljevich was honored by the ANA as Numismatist of the Year, a wonderful and well deserved honor. Congratulations to all for their outstanding honors.**

I am sure that you have gone on our new Website, www.colonialcoins.org, but if not, it is a must visit. There are a large number of resources there as well as the ability to down load our Newsletter, searchable by name and topic. In addition, from our website you can access the Newman Numismatic Portal, a treasure trove of numismatic information that can keep you busy for years. **And speaking about the NNP, Len Augsburger, a principal in the NNP, will be giving a daytime talk on the Portal and how to navigate it successfully. In addition, the NNP**

will be having a luncheon on Friday from 11:00-1:00 but please check the Whitman website and our table for location of the lunch.

As this is our Convention Newsletter, try to come to Baltimore November 3rd-5th if at all possible. We have a wonderful educational program this year, three talks, one on the Patterns Coins of 1792, another on the French Coinage specifically for Colonial American and the third talk, presented by Chuck Heck, a C4 and EAC VP, entitled "Searching for Charles E. Clapp." In addition, we are going to have 3 daytime talks of various topics plus a daytime talk on Friday morning by Len Augsburger on the Newman Numismatic Portal.

As a reminder, (see last issue of the NL) we will be selling tickets for the Thursday night dinner, which can be purchased for \$25 at the C4 or EAC table or at the door. You must present your ticket for admission to the dinner, however you can go to dinner elsewhere and just come to the educational program which starts around 7:00. A ticket is not necessary for the educational program (please see brochure which you can get at the C4 table for specific times). EAC will have a club table adjacent to our C4 area and both clubs will have a gathering area to socialize, show coins, photograph coins and just hang out. Also, there will be exhibits by both clubs which I'm sure will be very interesting. The Board of Directors exhibit this year will be NJ coppers organized by Buell Ish. Dennis Wierzba, our Bourse Chairman, has arranged all the food and room facilities as well as dealer tables in the bourse area. Don't hesitate to call Dennis for any concerns.

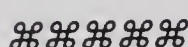
As this is my final President's Message, I sincerely want to thank you all for entrusting me with leading your club. The Board of Directors, which now has expanded to 9 Regional Vice Presidents, has been invaluable as the governing body of this club. It has been my pleasure to work with each and every one of them, each having a unique characteristic and energy that they bring. As I end my term, I am proud to say that we have now published 8 books, the most by far I believe of any numismatic club. Being President has given me the opportunity to meet so many new people



while at the same time making many new and wonderful friends. This "job" has expanded my knowledge of pre-federal coinage and currency by leaps and bounds, and for that and for all of you, I am grateful. I am leaving this club in the wonderful hands of Jack Howes, an extraordinarily bright and energetic person and along with his board, will bring new energy, concepts and excitement to C4. Thank you all for this opportunity...it has truly been a wonderful experience.

President Jim Rosen, manning the C4 table at the 2016 EAC Convention, in Charlotte. Photo courtesy of C4 member, Dale Isaacs.

I truly hope to see many of you at C4 in Baltimore, November 3rd-5th. Continue to enjoy this wonderful hobby of ours. As Q. David Bowers has said, I have never worked a day in my life...how fortunate we all are to have such a fantastic hobby as this.



A.N.A. NAMES JOHN KRALJEVICH NUMISMATIST OF THE YEAR

(A.N.A. press release, used by permission)

Friday, July 22, 2016 - John Kraljevich is the 2016 recipient of the American Numismatic Association's (ANA) Numismatist of the Year Award. The award honors an individual within the numismatic community who has demonstrated long-term leadership in the field and to the Association. He will be presented with the award on Friday, August 12, during the awards banquet at the World's Fair of Money in Anaheim.

For over a decade, John has been a popular instructor on Early American numismatics at the ANA's annual Summer Seminar. A regular columnist in the Association's journal, *The Numismatist*, and the national hobby publication, *Coin World*, he has been honored for his research and writing by the ANA and the Numismatic Literary Guild (NLG). John's *Coin World* column is now in its ninth year.

"As grateful and flattered as I am to receive this award, my career has been as much a product of the support of the ANA and the numismatic community as it has been anything I've done," said John. "I started out as a kid with a great deal of passion and curiosity about numismatics, both of which were stoked at the ANA Summer Seminars, by dealers, member clubs, and collectors involved with ANA shows. My excitement for our hobby and field of study is my own, but everything I've learned came from somewhere else. It's been a high honor to be treated so well by so many."

John has received many awards for his contributions to the hobby, some of which include the ANA's Young Numismatist (YN) of the Year (1993), Heath Literary Award (2002), Glenn Smedley Award (2011), and the Association's Honorary Doctorate in Numismatics (2015). John is also a recipient of multiple NLG awards for "Best Column" in a large publication (2004), (2006), and (2011).



At ANA conventions, John regularly serves as an exhibit judge. He is also a frequent lecturer at the Association's annual conventions, Early American Coppers conventions, and local coin clubs. John has served on several ANA committees, including the Museum Committee and the YN Committee.

Today, his advice on authenticity, appraisal and historical context on a wide variety of early American and exonomic issues is in high demand from collectors and advanced professionals alike. His counsel has been sought by institutions such as the Smithsonian

Institution, Colonial Williamsburg, the Massachusetts Historical Society, Monticello, and many others.

John's impressive record of achievements, his writing and research skills, integrity, and professionalism continue to raise the standard in numismatics. The American Numismatic Association is all the richer in having John as a dedicated member and supporter.

The American Numismatic Association is a congressionally chartered, nonprofit educational organization dedicated to encouraging the study and collection of coins and related items. The ANA helps its nearly 25,000 members and the public discover and explore the world of money through its vast array of educational and outreach programs, as well as its museum, library, publications, and conventions. For more information, call 719-632-2646 or visit www.money.org.



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BOOK REVIEW: SYDNEY F. MARTIN'S *FRENCH COINAGE SPECIFICALLY FOR COLONIAL AMERICA*

(Christopher R. McDowell)

Last August Sydney F. Martin's latest book, *French Coinage Specifically for Colonial America*, received the Numismatic Literary Guild's award for extraordinary merit. That award is well-deserved. I purchased my copy of the book when it first came out and used the attribution guide to identify all of my 1721-22 nine-*denier* coppers. Although I do not seriously collect these coins, I have accumulated a number of them over the years and felt I owed it to myself to identify them to determine if I had any rarities. Unfortunately for me, none of my coins turned out to be anything special, which almost always seems to be the case, but it was worth a try. It was not until after I read that the book received an award that I decided to sit down and read it from cover to cover; having done so, I regret the delay.

Most collectors will use this book the way I initially did - as an attribution guide for 1670 *Gloriam Regni* coins, 1717 Perpignan coppers, and 1721-22 nine-*denier* coppers. For this purpose the book is without equal. I was able to attribute some low-grade nine-*denier* coppers with no trouble. Helpfully, in addition to providing an attribution guide, Syd also incorporates the first rarity ratings for these coins, including condition rarity for the *Gloriam Regni* and 1721-22 nine-*denier* coinages – the 1717 Perpignan coppers are so rare that almost all the known extant coins are discussed individually. Considering the scarcity of the *Gloriam Regni* and Perpignan coins contrasted with the abundance of 1721-22 nine-*denier* coppers, preparation of a rarity guide is an impressive accomplishment. Both the attribution guide and rarity tables are easy to use and understand. While I am sure future generations of collectors will build upon Syd's work as more coins are examined, this book will never be surpassed in its breadth and scope of coverage of these coinages. Indeed, *French Coinage Specifically for Colonial America* is sure to be **The** reference for collectors interested in this area of numismatics.

More than half of the book is devoted to the 1721-22 nine-*denier* coppers that circulated in the central and southern United States for over 100 years. The 1721-22 nine-*denier* series is the most abundant and complex of the three coinages covered in the book, as it utilized the largest number of different obverse and reverse dies. As with the other series, the obverse and reverse of each nine-*denier* die variety is imaged with large black and white photographs of some of the finest known examples. The key diagnostic points are well illustrated and explained. In many instances, different die states of the same variety are shown. When two dies are substantially similar, as is the case, for example, with obverse dies 1.6 and 1.8 of the nine-*denier* coppers, Syd includes side-by-side comparison images of key differences to assist the collector in determining a match. I found this added feature to be very useful in identifying my coins. Indeed, this book should serve as an example regarding what must be included in a top-notch attribution guide.



1721 Nine-denier copper. Image courtesy of ANS.

French Colonial coins are one of the largest overlooked segments of American Colonial numismatics. As the title to the book states, these coins were all specifically manufactured for circulation in France's North American colonies, including much of what is today the United States. Despite the fact that these coins were made for and circulated in America, they are mostly ignored by American collectors. I suspect this is in part because most collectors are like me and do not speak French; therefore, until now, there was no easy way to learn about or research these coins. Syd has largely solved this problem for non-French speaking collectors by obtaining, translating, and publishing the original source material relating to each series. I am overjoyed to see these contemporary documents along with an English translation published for the first time. By publishing and translating these materials, Syd has opened the door to numismatic research on these coinages for others.

The book, however, is not just a cold recitation of facts and translation of old French documents - at the start of each of the three major sections Syd takes the available research and analyzes it starting with the *Gloriam Regni* and moving forward in time past the 1717 Perpignan coppers and concluding with the 1721-22 nine-denier coppers. Syd meticulously examines the history of each coinage along with how they were manufactured and placed into circulation. The well-written story that unfolds regarding the production and distribution of these coins is fascinating. There is no doubt that these coins are as important to American numismatic history as any English copper or silver coin that circulated in the Colonies, if not more so.

At the conclusion of each section there is an appendix with images and information on known copies. Syd notes in the appendix for the 1717 Perpignan coppers that the known cast copies of the 6- and 12-denier coins "are not deceptive." While these coins may not be deceptive to dealers or collectors' familiar with what the authentic coins look and feel like, they could be deceptive to the rest of us unfamiliar with the series. Moreover, considering the rarity of the 1717 Perpignan coppers, most of us are more likely to encounter a counterfeit than an authentic coin. In any case, the book performs a great service to the collecting community by including information and images of known copies.



Cast copy of 12-*denier* copper, which Syd indicates exhibits hollowness of the letters, an odd outline appearance to the bust, and is underweight when compared to an authentic coin. Image courtesy of ANS.

In addition to providing information on copies, the appendix for the nine-*deniers* includes a section with images of countermarked coins – both authentic and spurious, error coins, and off-metal and plated examples. Of particular usefulness to collectors of the 1721-22 nine-*denier* series is the appendix covering grading. This appendix takes a photograde approach to grading, including images of coins in different grades for the collector to use and compare with the coin in-hand. Considering the strike and planchet quality problems that plague the 1721-22 nine-*denier* coppers, this is the only approach that makes any sense. The grading section concludes with some highly informative and well-formulated comments on how the various professional grading services differ in their approach to 1721-22 nine-*denier* coppers.

One section that I found particularly enlightening relates to how the 1721-22 nine-*deniers* were struck. Based on his analysis of hundreds of coins and the linear die cracks and chipping observed on the dies, Syd concludes they were struck on a drop press, rather than a screw press. I could have read much more on this theory and hope that Syd will expand on it in future editions or in separate articles. As it is, the book is full of pockets of original research that make it essential reading for anyone interested in Colonial numismatics. I have all of Syd's books at home and am of the opinion that this is the best of the three books he has written - it is an essential part of any well-stocked numismatic library and is sure to last the test of time.

The Colonial Coin Collectors Club and its members should be proud of their association with this work. In publishing this book, C4 has furthered its core mission to promote colonial numismatics and increase the public's knowledge of colonial numismatics. *French Coinage Specifically for Colonial America*, by Sydney F. Martin, is available for \$85, plus \$7 shipping from bookseller Charles Davis (<http://www.vcoins.com>), Box 1, Wenham, MA 01984, or telephone 978-468-2933.

HOW CONNECTICUT COPPERS MADE THEIR WAY INTO COMMERCE

(Jim Rosen)

For me, one of the most puzzling aspects of pre-federal coinage was trying to understand how State coinages, specifically Connecticut coppers, got into circulation. During a recent talk I gave at the Connecticut Historical Society on Connecticut coppers, this question was asked by an attendee for whom I had to confess I had no good rational answer. These coppers obviously circulated and successfully, as there are not many uncirculated examples of any of these coinages floating around. It's not as if there were local banks that ushered them into commerce...there were no banks at the time of their coinage. And, according to an Act by the Connecticut General Assembly in October 1785, Connecticut Coppers were not legal tender and could not be used to pay taxes or be involved in large transactions...their primary purpose was to make change. Most likely, the main reason for their production by the private "Company for Coining Coppers" was that "good coppers" were scarce in the early times of our country. The vast majority of circulating coppers at the time were light-weight, home grown and foreign counterfeits, regal coppers, Nova Constellatio coppers plus a hodgepodge of other sundry coppers. This situation had the potential to impede the growth of our economy and make small transactions very difficult for merchants. So, how then did these Connecticut coppers enter into the pockets of the populace?

In personal communications with Randy Clark, a noted authority on Connecticut coppers, records from 1787 indicate that many of the mint's transactions, such as payments to workers, and for materials purchased, were made using Connecticut coppers. Accounts indicate that coppers were sold to local merchants by weight in batches of hundreds to thousands, but also merchants bought coppers by the [Spanish milled] dollar and British pound/shilling amounts. For instance, a merchant might buy 9 dollars' worth of coppers, another merchant might buy 6 British pounds' worth and another might purchase only 10 shillings' worth, obviously depending on their individual needs.

Primary sources further indicate that individuals who were involved with the business of coining coppers used these coins for routine everyday transactions such as purchasing food, buying transportation and exchanging currencies (i.e. silver and notes). These transactions certainly would have brought the coppers into the main stream of commerce. And, according to Clark, all of these transactions appeared to occur in the New Haven County area. No records exist today that give evidence that the coppers were circulating in the Hartford or New London areas. However, the absence of such records, unlike those records found in New Haven newspapers in 1786 and 1787 advertising acceptance of Connecticut coppers, does not necessarily mean that they didn't circulate there. But, given the primary evidence that we have, it appears that Connecticut coppers were distributed primarily in the New Haven County area and moved out of New Haven County like spokes of a wheel to areas that commerce took them.

Given the fact that Connecticut coppers were worth more than a number of circulating coppers at the time, many later date Connecticut coppers are found overstruck (by counterfeiters) on light weight coppers. These counterfeiters could buy coppers, such as Nova Constellatio, at a lower value, possibly 24 to the shilling, and overstrike them with counterfeit Connecticut dies. With Connecticut coppers being valued at 18 per shilling, these counterfeiters could make a handsome profit just in the currency exchange. Why were these counterfeiters not prosecuted? Since Connecticut coppers were not legal tender, essentially no official law was broken, even though the original act by the General Assembly specifically states that no one shall produce Connecticut coppers without the General Assembly's permission. This infraction was likely overlooked or considered a minor violation, unlike counterfeiting specie or altering currency, as Abel Buell could certainly attest.

I was also made aware of a significant serendipitous finding that has recently come to light: A handwritten note by Sylvester Crosby found on a page in his personal copy of Montroville Dickeson's 1859 book entitled *American Numismatic Manual*. Recently I had the good fortune to see this finding personally (Crosby's copy of Dickeson's book with Crosby's handwritten annotation courtesy of Syd Martin). This note recounts a story that was told to Dickeson by an elderly gentleman who had worked in the Connecticut mint as a very young man. This story, as was told to Crosby by Dickeson and chronicled by Crosby in his own handwriting, relates that merchants had (most likely purchased) their own obverse dies and would come into the mint and order coppers using their specific obverse dies and whatever reverse dies were currently available. This evidence, although not 100% primary, is about as primary as we can get and might help explain why there are so many different die varieties in the Connecticut series (a lot of merchants in Connecticut). It adds another mechanism for the entry of Connecticut coppers into circulation.

Although there is no evidence to support a similar situation occurring in the other states or Vermont, it is certainly reasonable to assume that merchants purchased coppers from these mints as well to help make small change. Die ownership by merchants in the other state mints, as described by Crosby for the Connecticut coppers, might not have occurred...however a finding similar to that as found in Dickeson's book could change all that.

Another interesting facet apropos to the Connecticut coppers and reported by Crosby relates to the royalties paid by the minters to the Connecticut Treasury. According to the contract that the "Company for Coining Coppers" signed with the State of Connecticut, 1/20 of all copper coins minted by the "Company" had to be given as a royalty to the State Treasury. According to primary evidence preserved at the Connecticut State Library, 1,447 pounds, 3 oz. of coined copper was to be presented by the mint to the State Treasury. However, according to the Treasury receipts, only 1,386 pounds and 1 oz. of coined coppers were delivered to the Treasury, leaving a balance of 61 pounds and 2 oz. of coined coppers due. Exactly what happened to that balance is not completely known but, according to Crosby, who quoted records from the State of Connecticut during 1789, a Major Eli Leavenworth made blank coppers and had them stamped in New York, some of them with an obverse and reverse design similar to the coins of the Company of Coining

Coppers. Crosby further goes on to state that Abel Bewel [sic] went to Europe and gave his son the right to coin coppers. So these two scenarios might explain those missing coppers. But what is definitely known is that the ~1,386 pounds of coins were delivered by the mint to the Treasurer and were stored at the Treasury, most likely in uncirculated condition (Randy Clark, personal communication). According to Crosby primary evidence dated December 1790, from the Connecticut State Treasury and preserved in the Connecticut State Library, reveals that the disposal of the Connecticut coppers in the Treasury was as follows:

Resolved by this Assembly that the Treasurer be and he is hereby authorized and directed to sell and dispose of the Copper Coin in the Treasury of this State for the Liquidated notes or Securities of this State provided he can obtain two shillings in said Notes or Securities pr pound weight for said Coppers.

Another entry dated May 1791 further states that

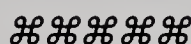
Resolved by this Assembly that the Treasurer be and he is hereby authorized and directed to dispose of the Coppers now in the Treasury and the property of this State to the best advantage and Report make of his proceedings in said Business.

These entries suggest that the royalty coppers in the Treasury were sold and disposed of by the Treasurer, adding yet another vehicle by which Connecticut coppers made their way into circulation, and at the same time possibly removing currency from circulation. It is also possible that the Connecticut legislature sold these stamped coppers to the Machin's Mills company to be used as undertype planchets for New Jersey coppers that actually circulated at a higher rate than the Connecticut coppers, yet another example of how these counterfeiters made money in the currency exchange (Randy Clark personal communication). Given the fact that this occurred after the Copper Panic of 1789, the value of these coppers was most certainly depressed. Whether or not it was the intention of the State to use this mechanism to put coppers into circulation or just a means to reduce their storage problem and at the same time increasing their assets is obviously unknown. It appears, however, that the Treasurer in 1790 was not overly successful, as the 1791 entry directs the Treasurer to dispose of the coppers left over in the Treasury to the State's best advantage without giving the guidance that was put forth seven months earlier.

It would certainly not be a huge leap of faith to suggest that the distribution of other state coppers, as well as those of Vermont and Machin's Mills, would have followed a similar fate as the Connecticut coppers. In fact, in Crosby's section on Massachusetts coppers, I found a record that supports one aspect of the distribution of coppers. Crosby stated that a Mr. Rufus Whiting, a local workman in the Dedham, Massachusetts area, was working for the mint, carting copper from the mint at Boston to the mill at Dedham and taking payment for his work in Massachusetts Cents. This situation, which seems quite similar to what was occurring in the New Haven Mint, certainly helped move Massachusetts coppers into commerce.

In summary, there appear to have been multiple vehicles by which Connecticut coppers found their way into commerce. Some definitely appear to be deliberate whereas others are not so obvious as in the case of the Connecticut Treasurer. And, as to the other pre-federal coppers, a similar line of distribution most likely occurred.

The author is indebted to Randy Clark for his information and suggestions and for leading me to Dickeson's book and Crosby's annotation. I also would like to thank Syd Martin for supplying Crosby's copy of Dickeson's book with Crosby's annotation in the margin and express my gratitude to Lou Jordan for his insightful comments.



THE COLONIAL NEWSLETTER

Founded in 1960, *The Colonial Newsletter (CNL)* publishes scholarship on early American numismatics. *CNL* focuses on the coinages produced by the states during the U.S.' Confederation period, and also investigates a variety of other specie.

Last September, numismatic literature expert David Fanning listed his top 10 numismatic publications of the 20th century. *The Colonial Newsletter* ranked 1st among journals, and 5th in overall publications.*

The next issue of *CNL* will feature 3 cutting-edge articles on the production of counterfeit British copper coins; an overlooked source that may hold the key to the origin of Elephant tokens; and the identity of a die engraver who fashioned dies for New Jersey copper and U.S. pattern coinage.

CNL is published three times a year by the American Numismatic Society (ANS) in April, August, and December.

Subscribe to *CNL*: <http://numismatics.org/store/cnl/>. \$45 for ANS Members; \$60 for non-Members.

Contact the editor, Christopher McDowell, at crmcdowell@strausstroy.com for additional information.

* <http://conacoinclub.com/category/whats-new-with-cona/>



REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF GEOFFREY P. STEVENS MARCH 17, 1971 – SEPTEMBER 10, 2016

(Chris Stevens)

Why do people feel compelled to collect things? Much has been written on this subject, and there is really no clear answer. According to a Wikipedia entry describing the “Psychology of Collecting,” it is speculated that “...for many people who amass collections, the value of their collections are not monetary but *emotional*, and are often not for sale. Collections allow people to relive their childhoods, to connect themselves to a period in history or to a time they feel strongly about.”

Additionally, the article reveals that “there is happiness from adding a new find to the collection, the excitement of the hunt, the social camaraderie when sharing their collection with others.”

In all of these aspects, Geoffrey Stevens was the *quintessential* collector. As a toddler, he always had his eyes on the ground. He was fascinated by new things, and would closely examine anything within his grasp. From his humble beginning of collecting bottle caps, marbles, baseball cards and matchbox cars...Geoffrey’s love for discovery only grew with time. I would argue that as he got older, his collections did NOT “allow him to relive his childhood.” It may be more accurate to state that his “childhood” never really ended. He carried a youthful exuberance and an insatiable thirst for knowledge his entire life. The “excitement of the hunt” certainly never faded in Geoffrey’s life, and I have no reason to believe that it ever would have.

Unfortunately, Geoffrey’s life was cut short at 45 years; the result of a tragic automobile accident.

Many of you undoubtedly remember my older brother Geoff as a passionate researcher and collector of colonial coins. He may be best recognized for his interest in Massachusetts Silver. This attraction began at an early age. Throughout the late 1970s and early 80s, he and I could be found bicycling back and forth to the local banks. Returning home, we would sit for hours at the kitchen table searching through rolls of change attempting to complete date and mintmark sets.

With a modest budget, we visited local coin shops as pre-teens and secured the founding pieces that would evolve into an interest that covered a much broader spectrum of numismatics. We started with Buffalo nickels and Barber dimes, coins that Geoffrey remarkably still owned at the time of his death. However, from the first moment Geoffrey obtained a *Red Book* of U.S. coins, he was enamored with what he described as a child as “the good stuff.” He studied every detail on every coin pictured in the traditional “colonial” portion, and we used to talk about the shared dream of finding a Pine Tree shilling while metal detecting.

After graduating from high school, Geoff obtained a business degree from The University of Massachusetts - Lowell. Although that was his major, Geoffrey was far more interested in the extensive courses he pursued in U.S. history. He focused on the pre-settlement period and colonial America. He was fascinated by Native American culture, which later led to an active involvement in searching for and identifying artifacts. He actively visited a number of local museums, and was consulted for his expertise in the identification and dating of many items.

As funds became available to Geoffrey a little later in life, he was quick to resume collecting coins. With very little effort, he pulled me back into the hobby and an inseparable bond and “camaraderie” was reignited from our childhood. He briefly pursued collecting early US large cents, type US gold, early Federal silver issues and a number of other areas. Predictably, he quickly gravitated again to “the good stuff.” His first colonial purchase, over 20 years ago was a 1788 Massachusetts cent. Like many other members of our club, once he had the “colonial bug,” he never looked back.

He was a very patient collector, and over two decades he assembled modest runs by variety within almost every colonial series. He also enjoyed pursuing representative pieces from early French issues, Irish and British hammered coinage, colonial currency, US medals, counterstamped coinage and Civil War tokens. As a lifelong resident of Newburyport, MA, Geoffrey was always drawn to all things associated with Jacob Perkins. He had done a great deal of research related to the local inventor and die-sinker and was honored with an opportunity to speak before the local Historical Society at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Perkins Mint Museum opened in May of 2010. Geoff’s Washington Funeral medal (ca: 1800) was amongst his most prized possessions excluding his extensive collection of Mass Silver.

The truly defining element that differentiated Geoff as a *collector* rather than an *investor* could be seen by examining his library, the breadth and scope of which surpassed his actual coin holdings many times over. He loved to read, and was blessed with a nearly photographic memory. I was simply amazed my entire life by how Geoff could see a coin at auction or online and recognize exactly where he had seen it before. He could essentially recite an entire pedigree for a rare coin without hesitation. His loss to the numismatic community is certainly going to be felt.

Far greater however, is the void that Geoffrey will leave in the lives of his friends and family. He was truly beloved by hundreds of individuals that he had met over the short period of his life. In a world driven by social media, it may be considered “common” to have dozens, if not hundreds of “friends.” However, Geoff was not on Facebook. He did not use Twitter, Instagram or any other social medium. Every friendship Geoff had was built the old fashioned way. He maintained those bonds with close communication, inspiring conversation and real face-to-face association. If you were blessed with knowing him while he was alive, you were more likely to get a hug or a handshake from him than a text or an email. Truthfully, if you maintain a blog Geoffrey would have NO interest in reading it...but he would love to meet you for a coffee and talk about your day, or show you a recent coin acquisition.

When alive, Geoffrey was described as a “peacekeeper.” He was “the glue” that held together many groups of friends. He lived a fairly simple life but was able to find extraordinary pleasures in simple things. Geoff was truly an “old soul” in a society where that term is often overused. Living a life with such high moral character, honesty and loyalty is not always easy. It came naturally for Geoffrey though, since the time he was a child. His kindness and respect for others were as integral a part of his being as his breathing itself. Geoff inspired me and encouraged me to collect. My own love for history, coins and literature were spurred on by his enthusiasm, and are an eternal debt that I will never forget. He was the Best Man in my wedding, just as he was the “best man” in many of our lives. He was my big brother... I love you Geoffrey. Rest in peace.



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Editor's Note: A C4 Educational Memorial Fund has been established in memory of Geoffrey P. Stevens. Please visit the C4 website or contact Jim Rosen for details or to contribute.

MASSACHUSETTS WITCH PIECES – REVISITED

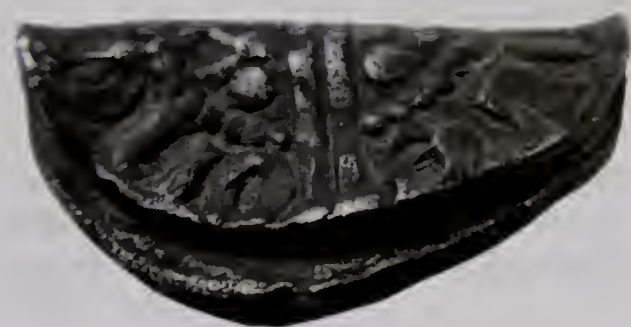
(Michael S. Shutty Jr.)

Shillings and their fractions from Massachusetts are among the most popular colonial coins. The roughhewn character of the Willow, Oak, and Pine Tree issues are charming and reflect a frontier culture known for its stalwart self-reliance. Their mystique has been enhanced by the lore of “witch pieces” that were bent as amulets to ward off demonic forces. Indeed, the witch delusions of 1692 that resulted in the execution of fourteen women, five men, and two dogs in Salem are as fascinating as they are tragic.¹

There is no debate that witchcraft was of grave concern in English society. *Maleficium* by the hand of a witch was a crime that was zealously prosecuted. In fact, nearly 1500 witches were put to death in post-medieval Britain.² The first recorded hanging was Agnes Waterhouse at Chelmsford in 1566. She was accused of bewitching a neighbor with a bloody flux.³ Executions throughout England continued at least until 1682 when three women from Bideford were hanged at Exeter.⁴ However, the fear of witchcraft continued for nearly a century, however, as a vengeful mob beat Ruth Osborne, a suspected witch, to death in 1751.³

The first witch to be hanged in North America was Alse Young of Connecticut in 1647.³ Thirty-five or so executions followed with Massachusetts having the dubious distinction of taking the most lives, due in part to the horrific events at Salem.^{2,3} Historians have suggested that theocratic governance coupled with a distain for non-conformity contributed to the Bay Colony’s disproportionate number of witchcraft accusations.^{1,5} Of note, some jurisdictions, such as Rhode Island and New York, had no witch trials at all, whereas Virginia held trials but no one was executed.³

The idea that a bent coin had protective powers is not far-fetched when considered in the context of medieval practices in England. Bending coins was customary when making a vow of pilgrimage to a chosen saint in return for deliverance from sickness or misfortune. Ronald Finucane described the rite in his book *Miracles and Pilgrims*.⁶ For example, a mariner claimed to have bent a penny making a vow to Saint Wulfstan during a violent storm at sea, and the storm passed without harm. In another case, a blind horse was made to see after a coin was bent for it. Finucane provided the following translation as recorded in the canonization of Thomas Cantilupe: “Alice injured her foot and the disability became chronic, with suppuration. Her father vowed to visit Cantilupe’s shrine and invoking his name and saying prayers, he bent a penny over her.”



Folded long cross silver penny, circa 1272-1399. Specific issue not identified. Metal detector find from UK. Photo by author.

Bent coins have also been employed as a counter-charm to protect against witchcraft. In his provocative book, *The Archaeology of Ritual and Magic*, Ralph Merrifield described the practice of using a bent coin – typically a crooked sixpence – as a “churn-spell” to keep butter safe from a foretelling that would turn it sour.⁷ In such instances, the bent sixpence was placed inside the churn or under it. In a somewhat related vein, Merrifield noted that nails and pins, used in witch-bottles meant to provide relief from a bewitching, were deliberately bent in most cases. This suggests that bending was an integral ingredient of the counter-charm.

The tradition of bending objects to signify a vow and thereby gain an advantage dates to pre-Roman times. Merrifield explained that a useful object – whether a coin or knife – is “killed” when bent, allowing it to pass into the afterlife. Hence, bent objects were placed in graves or ceremoniously cast into a body of water so as to connect with the spiritual world. Merrifield argued that coin bending in post-medieval times is a vestige of this practice. As he put it, “Bending a coin had always been regarded as a symbol of devotion and of a vow; when worship of the saints was condemned as idolatrous, it was re-directed to a secular purpose, and bent coins came to be used as love tokens.”⁷



William III sixpence, dated 1696, bent as love token. Metal detector find in UK. Photo by author.

In particular, the English love-token custom required that one end of the coin was bent upwards, and the other end was bent downwards. This produced a clearly defined s-shape. No one knows why this configuration was adopted, but treasure hunters in England have been digging up these “benders” (as they are called) for centuries. The tradition was widespread, and the s-shaped pieces are common as evidenced by coins reported in the Portable Antiquities Scheme database.⁸

S-shaped benders, plus folded coins, have been excavated in seventeenth century archeological contexts in America. In Jamestown, two Elizabethan sixpences (dated 1573 and 1593) were discovered with distinct s-shape bends. Both pieces were put on display and described as love tokens.⁹ A folded Elizabethan sixpence was discovered in a mid-seventeenth century gravesite on the Reverend Richard Buck plantation property, a mile or so north of the Jamestown.^{9,10} In addition, folded silver pennies were discovered at the George Sandys and Flowerdew sites along the James River.^{11,12} A twice-bent Elizabethan sixpence was also found in Maryland.¹³ Of particular interest, an acutely bent Massachusetts twopence was unearthed at the Garrett van Sweringen site in St. Mary’s City, Maryland.¹⁴



Elizabeth I sixpences, dated 1573 and 1593, excavated at Jamestown, Virginia and on display there. Both coins exhibit the up and down bends that are characteristic of English love tokens. Photo by author.

These findings suggest that folded, bent, and s-shaped coins were contemporaneous and being used in the English colonies as early as 1624. Hence, coin bending of at least two kinds, and likely for different purposes, was practiced in the first half of the seventeenth century along the James River and in Maryland. At this writing, I do not know of any bent English coins found in New England. Nonetheless, available data prompts us to ask the question: What kinds of bends have been found on Massachusetts' silver coins?

As most collectors know, Sydney Noe was the first to mention “witch-pieces.” He devoted a full page to the topic in his 1952 monograph describing the Pine Tree coinage.¹⁵ As he put it, “One of the tragic episodes in the early history of the Bay Colony – the witch frenzy – has an indirect bearing on the coinage we have been studying.” He mentions the Salem witch trials of 1692, and then he gets to it: “We are told that it was the superstitious belief of the time that wearing a bent coin afforded protection against the power of witches. Some of our Pine Tree coins show evidence of having once been bent even though as we see them now they have again been flattened.” No references are given to support his supposition.



At left, Oak Tree Shilling (reverse), Noe 14/Salmon 11A-Gi, with outside of bend in upper left quadrant and inside of bend on lower right quadrant. The coin has been straightened. At right, Elizabeth I sixpence (reverse), dated 1572, with outside of bend at upper left quadrant and inside of bend on lower right quadrant. Photo by author.

In 1988, Walter Breen added further comment in his *Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins*: “During the 1692 Salem panic, carrying any bent silver coin was supposed a protection from witches.”¹⁶ In his listing of Pine Tree shillings, he reported that, “Many specimens show teeth marks and attempted bending like Oak Tree pieces similarly treated; these are mementos of the Salem witchcraft delusion of 1692.” It is in this last statement that Breen obfuscates the issue by labeling the bent shillings as “mementos” of the Salem witch trials.

This narrow interpretation is continued by Phillip Mossman in *Money of the American Colonies and Confederation* wherein he states, “It has been popularly promoted that New Englanders, *during the latter half of the seventeenth century*, carried bent silver coins to protect themselves from the evils of witchcraft, a frenzy which had engulfed Massachusetts” [emphasis added]. Mossman, however, refutes the idea of bending, accepting that such pieces were made that way (see roller press discussion below).¹⁷ In fact, we can see that the coin-bending tradition dates to medieval times and is not directly linked with the Salem witch trials.

Were Massachusetts Oak and Pine Tree coins deliberately bent? If so, were they bent to protect folks from witches? Or, were they bent for other reasons?

Some numismatists have opined that any bending likely occurred as an artifact of squeezing a planchet through the roller press. Louis Jordan has made this point succinctly on his popular website: *The Coins of Colonial and Early America*.¹⁸ Without even a mention of witches, Christopher Salmon clearly illustrated the impact of the roller press in his beautiful book, *The Silver Coins of Massachusetts*. Therein, he provided edge-view images that show the gentle s-shape curve – that Salmon termed “sinusoidal” – for Oak Tree and early Pine Tree coins produced on a roller press.¹⁹

The most outspoken argument discrediting “witch pieces” comes from John Kraljevich who remarked that the mention of them “makes the hair on the back of my neck stand up quicker than a black cat crossing my path.”²⁰ He provided a concise review of the numismatic literature emphasizing that Massachusetts witch pieces were never mentioned before Noe. Furthermore, Kraljevich noted that famed writer Nathaniel Hawthorne did not recognize their use as amulets despite his having written about both the Pine Tree shillings and the Salem witch trials. If anyone were to write about witch-pieces, he would have – it would be too intriguing a tale to pass up. Kraljevich concluded his argument by noting that bent coins reflected attempts to break them into fractional pieces, nothing more.

It is interesting to note that Robert Leonard, writing in the online *E-Sylum*, edited by Wayne Homren, observes that several post-medieval coins, including a hammered shilling of Edward VI, show bending patterns similar to those found in Massachusetts silver coins. However, his interpretation is that “the purpose is to test that the metal is pure enough to withstand bending without cracking or breaking; “witches” are completely out of the picture.”²¹ Leonard goes on to quip that he suspects the term “witch piece” to be a marketing ploy to sell mutilated coins.

So what do we make of these curiously bent Massachusetts coins? It seems that it is *all about the bend*. Going back to Jamestown, we see that love token benders have a particular shape: two bends, one upwards and one downwards. This is exactly what is seen in several Massachusetts' shillings that I found when searching various auction archives. On a few occasions, I found it difficult to distinguish between a sinusoidal curve and those that come from deliberate bending, but bent small planchet Pine Tree shillings are unequivocal – I found several.



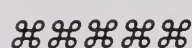
Pine Tree Shilling, small planchet, Noe 18/Salmon 4-B, bent as love token with outside of bend in upper right of obverse and inside of bend in lower left of obverse. This coin was struck on a screw press; as such, the bends are deliberate and follow in the pattern of English love tokens. Photo courtesy of Heritage Auctions²²

Consequently, it appears that the tradition of making a vow persisted in seventeenth century New England.²² Was the vow one of love or was it something else? This we cannot say. But the tradition of bending coins to allow spiritual use is evident in Massachusetts' shillings²² and fractions.¹⁴ This brings us one step closer to understanding their otherworldly significance. But let me be clear: no witches have been mentioned, not even a black cat. Consequently, I believe that it is premature to label them as such; however, the term *talisman* is appropriate based on the evidence.

I leave you with this caveat: The practice of magic was widespread despite being a private action. Counter-charms offered a remedy that was proactive and direct. The appeal to magic – like crossing oneself or bending a coin – was not likely to be described in any detail unless it became evidence in a legal proceeding. After all, the Anglicans, and especially the Puritans, prohibited the use of “Old Church” remedies. In summary, the excavations along the James River, where religious intolerance was relaxed as compared with the Bay Colony, have provided many bent and folded coins for us to ponder. A few Massachusetts pieces are similarly bent. What are these coins telling us?

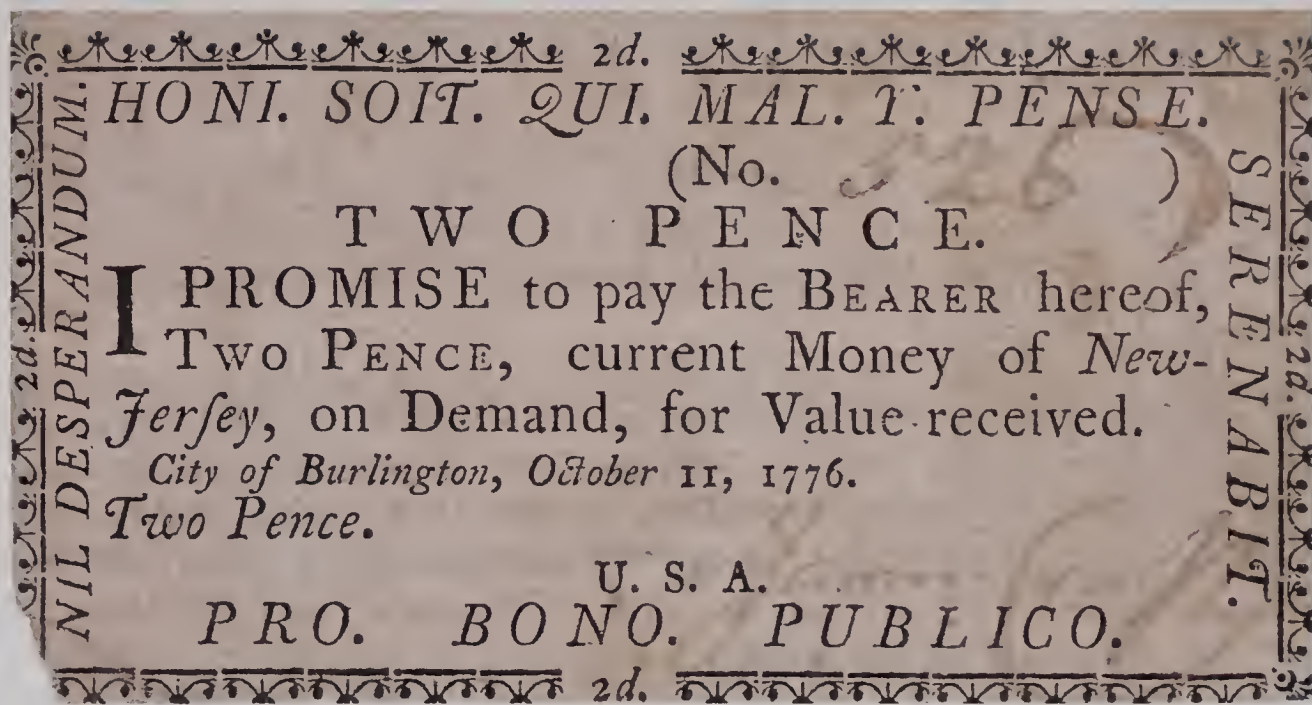
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8. Portable Antiquities Scheme/The Trustees of the British Museum, *UK Detector Finds Database*, <http://finds.org.uk/database>, Accessed July 3, 2016. About 8% of sixpences reported were described as love token benders.
9. The author examined these love tokens and other bent/folded coins at Jamestown courtesy of Merry Outlaw, Curator, *Preservation Virginia/Jamestown Recovery*. Of 14 sixpences excavated, two were love token benders, three deliberately bent, one made into a pendant, and another four halved or partly cut; two fragments of yet another piece might have broken due to bending. This data does not include at least six other bent/folded coins of lesser denominations.
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THE U.S.A.: BORN IN NEW JERSEY?

(David D. Gladfelter)



This modest two-penny small change note, issued by Burlington merchant James Craft and dated October 11, 1776, does not locate the city of issue within the state of New Jersey, but rather, within the new nation, “U. S. A.” It is the Newman plate note and is from Eric’s own collection. He observes: “A very early use of the abbreviation U.S.A.”¹

Intriguing. A search through the Newman reference does not disclose any monetary use of the name “United States of America” or the abbreviation “U.S.A.” prior to that by Craft. In fact, the name “United Colonies” on currency issues of the Continental Congress was not changed to “United States” until that authorized by the resolution of May 20, 1777.

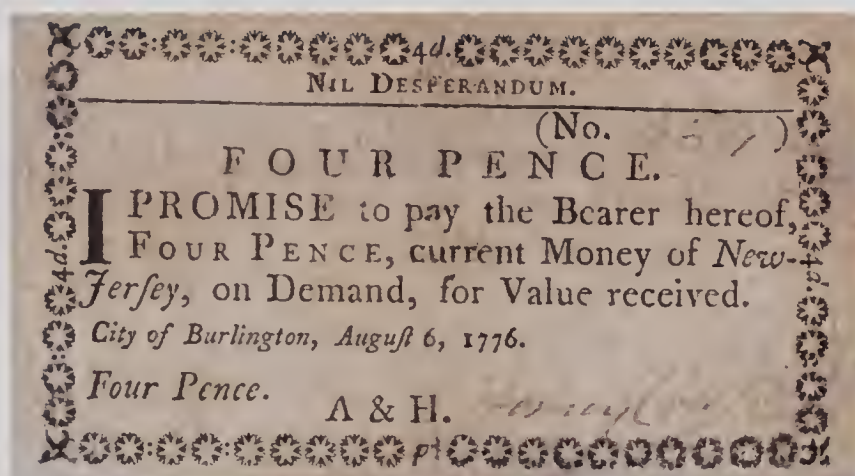
If asked the question, “When and where did the name of our country originate?”, most would say “in the Declaration of Independence.” There it is, right in the title, as well as in the operative language, “We, therefore, the Representatives of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in GENERAL CONGRESS, Assembled, ... do ... solemnly Publish and Declare....” But Thomas Jefferson was not its originator; the name-to-be of our nation had appeared in writings and publications for several months before independence.

A little known aide to General Washington, Stephen Moylan, has now been credited with naming our nation. In a letter dated January 2, 1776, written from the Continental Army headquarters in Cambridge, MA, to Col. Joseph Reed, Washington’s aide-de-camp, then on leave in Philadelphia, Moylan said: “I should like vastly to go with full and ample powers from the United States of America to Spain” to seek its support of the patriotic cause.² Moylan’s letter is in the New-York Historical Society’s collections and is kept with the Joseph Reed papers.

Moylan's letter was published in a 1909 biography of Reed, and also in a 1951 book by historian Curtis P. Nettles, but its significance to the naming of our nation had been overlooked. Jefferson, John Dickinson of Pennsylvania, Elbridge Gerry of Massachusetts, and Washington himself, all used the name in statements published during the month prior to the Declaration. Earlier, in the *Virginia Gazette* of April 6, 1776, the name was used in a pro-independence essay written by "A Planter."³ But Moylan's letter is the earliest documentary evidence of the name thus far.

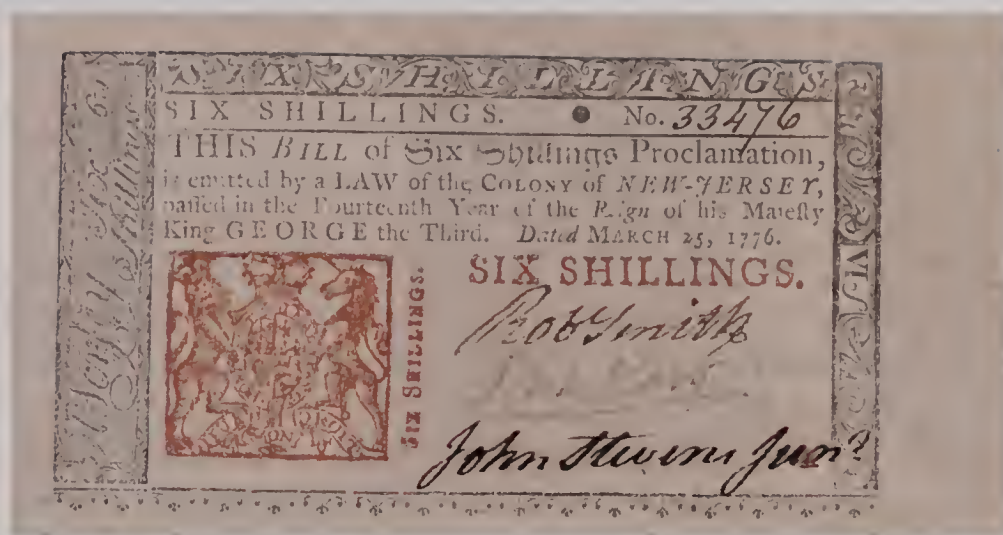
So then, James Craft's note, although bearing an early use of the abbreviation U.S.A., was not the first use of it. The note was much earlier than the bar copper with the USA monogram.⁴ In my mind, it is a strong candidate for the first *monetary* use of U.S.A.

I have learned very little about James Craft, the man. His name appears in the *Burlington Town Book* as having been elected Tax Collector for 1781 and one of three "Commissioners of Appeal" for 1783, 1784 and 1785. In 1783 he served on a committee to advise the town meeting on expenditure of rent of the island Mattinecunk in the Delaware River, off the Burlington shore.⁵ He issued an earlier series of small change notes dated August 6, 1776, without the U.S.A. abbreviation.⁶ He is the named payee on notes of the Burlington Nail Manufactory.⁷



James Craft 4d note, August 6, 1776.

The Craft "U.S.A." note is without imprint, but doubtless came from the shop of printer Isaac Collins of Burlington, the likely choice as New Jersey had very few printers in 1776.⁸ As King's printer, later State printer, Collins printed two issues of New Jersey colonial bills of credit in Burlington, and three more in Trenton where he relocated. A comparison of the border ornaments on this note with those on the face of Collins's 6 shilling bill of credit, issued March 25, 1776, will show the similarity as well as the distinctive capital letter T with the curled top. A comparison of the border ornaments on Craft's four-penny small change note of August 6, 1776, with those above the sage leaf on the back of Collins's 18d bill of credit, issued March 25, 1776, will show that this earlier note was also printed by Collins. Other comparisons to issues with the Collins imprint will reveal additional similarities.



(Left) Bill of credit printed by Collins with ornamental lower border like that on Craft “U.S.A.” note.



(Right) Bill of credit printed by Collins with row of ornaments above sage leaf like border of earlier Craft note. Photos by author.

Notes and References:

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² Touba, Mariam, “Who Coined the Phrase ‘United States of America’? You May Never Guess,” New York Historical Society blog, from Stacks, November 5, 2014. Online at <http://blog.nyhistory.org/coined-phras- united-states-america-may-never-guess>. Accessed September 24, 2016. I would like to credit Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, with the link.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ Bowers, Q. David, *Whitman Encyclopedia of Colonial and Early American Coins*, Atlanta, Whitman Publishing, LLC, 2009, pp. 241-242.

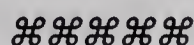
⁵ Bisbee, Henry H. and Colesar, Rebecca Bisbee, eds. *The Burlington Town Book, 1694-1785*, Burlington, New Jersey, J., Henry H. Bisbee, 1975, pp. 47-48. The original Town Book is a leather covered volume consisting of 327 handwritten pages, a few blank pages and some miscellaneous notes. The first entry is dated April 5, 1694 and the last October 23, 1843; the 1975 transcription used for this article ends with entries made on August 8, 1785, the date that the City of Burlington received its charter from the State of New Jersey within the surrounding Township of Burlington. It contains minutes pertaining to City and Township matters under their Colonial charters. The original book is the property of Burlington Township. A microfilm copy is in the Rutgers University library.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ Newman, *op. cit.*, fn.1, 262.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 265.

⁸ Thomas, Isaiah, *The History of Printing in America, With a Biography of Printers & an Account of Newspapers*, third ed., New York, Weathervane Books, 1970, pp. 519-526. The first edition of this work appeared in 1810.



PLATA CORRIENTE

(Ray Williams)

Plata Corriente - the name just rolls off the tongue! Let me preface what I'm going to share by talking a little about the early colonies in North America. In grade school, especially around Thanksgiving, we learned about the Pilgrims fleeing Europe to escape religious persecution. That settlement at Plymouth started in 1620. Rarely do we hear about Jamestown, Virginia (1607) or the Spanish settlements of St. Augustine, Florida (1565) and Santa Elena (present day Marine base of Parris Island, South Carolina) that was occupied by the Spanish from 1566 to 1587. The Spanish had settlements in the New World for more than 100 years before the permanent settlements of Jamestown and Plymouth.

The Spanish pursuit of "Gold, Glory and God" had concentrated their settlements in Mexico, Central and South America. As the bulk of mined silver and gold was struck into coins or bars and sent back to Spain, there was a need for money in the quickly expanding colonies - something our British American colonies experienced more than a century later. The Massachusetts coinage dated 1652 and the Lord Baltimore coinage (circa 1659) were attempts to alleviate the dearth of good coinage in the British colonies. The Spanish American colonies had their answer to the lack of coins for local commerce: *Oro Corriente* and *Plata Corriente*.

Translating to English, *Oro Corriente* is "circulating gold" and *Plata Corriente* translates to "circulating silver." These were monies of necessity for the Spanish colonists. Several years ago, I was at the bourse table of John Kraljevich. We both share an interest in the odd and unusual in colonial numismatics. He showed me several pieces of Plata Corriente that came from a Panamanian land-find context. I couldn't resist purchasing one. Shortly after, I obtained a second example from him. I bought the coins before the book! In searching to find out what it was that I had purchased, I found there was little written on the topic. In my quest for info, I met (online) Jorge Proctor. Jorge is an author and researcher, well respected in numismatics for his scholarly writings using contemporary documents.

After obtaining and reading several articles by Jorge and his book *The Forgotten Mint of Colonial Panama*, I wanted to know more. The *Oro Corriente* was first produced in the Spanish colonies, followed later by the *Plata Corriente*. Pictured is a Plata Corriente from my collection. At a quick glance, it looks like a rock I picked up in my backyard. From what I've read, the early *Plata Corriente* had no markings at all. The King did not authorize this coinage. Colonial authorities were unable to stop their circulation and felt compelled to keep some type of quality control by the use of a tax stamp. This also would verify that the Crown received the "King's Fifth" (a 20 percent tithe on mined gold and silver). Rarely (never?) does a complete tax stamp show. Usually just the remnants of a circle with a letter or two are seen. The method of manufacture was to pour molten silver into a simple mold and break it into pieces. They were valued in commerce by weight.



Example of Plata Corriente, obverse and edge view. Photo by author.

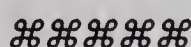
Wondering if the quality of the silver was the same as that of the struck coinage, I had a metallurgical analysis done. Mine are composed of 94 percent silver, 3 percent copper and 3 percent lead. I thought this very strange because of the high lead content. Was there a shortage of copper to use as an alloy and lead was added? Communicating with Jorge, I learned that this metallic content was typical of silver mined in Peru. Though this is the case for my specimens, Jorge informs me that this is not always the case. He told me,

...Nonetheless, where the ones you have do contain a high silver content, that is not true for all of them. The nature of these pieces did lend themselves to using debased pieces by unscrupulous individuals (be that by faking the mark by those outside of the foundries or mines, or by applying real marks to debased silver pieces by those who should have maintained quality control).

This "coinage" was used from the reign of Charles V thru that of Philip IV. As coins eventually became more common in the Spanish colonies, the government insisted that the *Plata Corriente* be turned in for the coins of the realm. This was accomplished over time and accounts for their scarcity today. The melting down of *Plata Corriente*, and coining the silver, account for the examples we see today coming from either shipwrecks or land finds. The St. John's wreck (believed to be that of the *Santa Clara* of 1564) is one of the wrecks containing examples. In addition to the recent Panamanian land discoveries, a number have been archeologically excavated at Parris Island, South Carolina. The name Parris Island sounds like a tropical paradise, but in reality it is the location of a Marine Boot Camp - no "tropical paradise." Ask any Marine!

Credits:

All of the information in this article was obtained from Jorge Proctor's book, his articles and our private emails. None is my own personal research. His advice and assistance with this article was greatly appreciated. And his research adds greatly to my thrill of owning these fascinating pieces of history.



TREASURE IN A JUNK BOX

(Mark A. Sportack)

Recently, I had the privilege of helping broker a deal for five pieces of Hogge Money that were found in a “junk box.” While I’m not at liberty to disclose the purchase price of this lot, or the previous and current owners, I can share with you the story of their rediscovery. As I tell you this tale, it may seem crazy. Lest you begin to question my sanity or integrity, I have included some pictures to prove this actually happened. These coins have lain undisturbed in a junk box filled with low-value Bermudian coins and banknotes since at least 1981. The lot consists of a twopence, a threepence, two sixpence, and a shilling – a complete denomination set of Bermuda’s iconic 1616 coinage, the first made for an English New World colony.

The provenance of these coins is unknown, but they were the highlight of an otherwise unremarkable accumulation of numismatic dross. The owner had passed away, and his widow set about the lamentable task of sorting through his possessions and figuring out what to do with everything. She reached out to a local numismatist and asked if he would be interested in examining a box of notes and coins she found in her husband’s closet. She confided that she knew nothing about them, and didn’t even know her husband had them until she opened the box.

The local numismatist, my friend, made an appointment to visit, and was greeted by a niece of the deceased man. After examining the contents of the box, he advised them that there was really nothing of significant value or interest to him, but he thanked them for the opportunity. As he was leaving, the young woman asked if he might be interested in some Hogge Money that they also found in the box. She wasn’t sure they were real, but had removed them from the box and put them in a safe deposit box just in case. My friend couldn’t imagine they would be real based upon what he had just seen, but said he would be interested in seeing them. The niece said she would have to retrieve them, but would be in touch.

A few weeks elapsed before he heard from the niece. She had retrieved them, and thought they may be real. In fact, she told him she reached out to a major auction house and had preliminary conversations about what they may be worth, and how best to market them. This piqued my friend’s curiosity, and he asked if they were still available and when he could see them. They set a date and time and place to meet. Upon examination, my friend quickly realized they were not the cheap cast copies he had grown accustomed to finding. More importantly, he needed help with attributing, authenticating, and establishing a value for them.

Fortunately, I was in the process of making plans to visit Bermuda for an anniversary getaway with my wife. The timing of my trip coincided perfectly with my friend’s need for assistance, so we made plans to get together and study coins. I brought some of my 1793 Bermuda pennies and Harington patent farthings for him to examine while I looked at the hoggies.

The hoggies were stored individually in old white envelopes. A hand-written note made it clear the owner knew they were real, and had owned them for at least 35 years. The family's surprise at finding them, and uncertainty as to their authenticity, is quite revealing. Their reaction strongly suggests these hoggies were family heirlooms passed down through generations of the man's family rather than marital property acquired during the couple's time together. If they are, in fact, family heirlooms, it is entirely possible that these hoggies are "new" to the numismatic community. They have been privately held, and changed hands quietly through the generations of a family. Even this transaction would be private and away from the glare of the numismatic community's scrutiny. I am grateful to my friend for allowing me to introduce these neat coins to you.

Oral history aside, physical examination of the hoggies also suggests they are previously unknown specimens. Hoggies are sufficiently rare that they can be uniquely distinctive. If anyone recognizes any of these specimens, please let me know!

The Twopence



Figure 1: The Hogge Money twopence.

Although the threepence is indisputably rarer, in my opinion the absolute star of this lot is the twopence. It features the large star obverse paired with the only known reverse. As you can see in Figure 1, the obverse is well and evenly struck. The hair on the hogge's back is particularly well defined. There is no trace of corrosion, and the state of preservation is truly remarkable.

The reverse is also remarkable in that it was clearly triple struck. This results in the loss of some detail and the design features shift south on the flan. For the reverse to be triple struck while the obverse is solidly but singly struck, means that the twopence stuck to the obverse die after the first hammer blow. Perhaps the other two reverse impressions were caused by hammer bounce, but it may also be that the minter simply struck it two more times to loosen the coin from the obverse die.

The reverse is also not nearly as well preserved as the obverse, although the aft portholes are quite clear. This is unusual as pictures of the few specimens that I have been able to track down show a notable lack of detail in the aft portion of the ship's hull. I do not believe this indicates a new die as much as it indicates a die state or simply a fortuitous preservation of detail.

The Threepence

Adding a threepence to the known census is quite a thrill! This threepence is in remarkable shape, though clearly not the finest known. Both obverse and reverse demonstrate a pitted flan, and there is a small spot of "bronze disease" just forming on the obverse at 8 o'clock in the legend. There is just one pair of dies known for the Sommers Islands threepence, and this one matches.



Figure 2: The Hogge Money threepence.

The First Sixpence

There were two sixpence in this lot of hoggies. The first one is of the most common small pig obverse. Both sides of this coin demonstrate considerable wear, and little fine detail remains. In that regard, this hoggie is fairly typical of the breed. The coin was fairly heavily double-struck. It appears that the coin "jumped" between hammer blows. On the reverse, the coin's features are shifted almost perfectly west. There remains a residual rim and legend. If you look closely, you can make out some of the letters in SOMMER.

The reverse is fairly well corroded, but enough detail remains to identify die variety as the large portholes variety. The design is also struck off-center, shifted almost perfectly to the left. There also appears to be a secondary image, although that image is limited to just a second rim to the east of the main rim.



Figure 3: The first Hogge Money sixpence.

Another noteworthy feature is that this sixpence was holed for some unknown purpose. The hole appears at 6 o'clock on the obverse and 12 o'clock on the reverse. At some point, someone tried repairing the hole with a fresh copper plug. This plug has subsequently toned brown, but is free of the corrosion that affects the rest of the coin. Thus, it is fairly obvious but in no way detracts from the coin.

The Second Sixpence

The second sixpence in the lot was well-centered but unevenly struck, and a considerable amount of detail remains. It features the same obverse as the first sixpence in this lot: it has the small pig and ILANDS legend. The top of the obverse is weakly struck, though the bottom has more detail. That asymmetric strike is quite common with hand-hammered coins. Also, the flan isn't quite circular and has a straight clip at the 9 o'clock position seen at the bow of the ship.

The reverse of this sixpence is quite interesting and MAY represent a previously unattributed die. At first glance, it appears to be a large porthole specimen, but closer examination reveals numerous subtle differences between this particular specimen and what is commonly accepted as a large portholes specimen. If you look closely at the portholes, you will see that there are 5 instead of the 4 normally seen on large portholes sixpence.



Figure 4: The second Hogge Money sixpence – A new variety (?)

Sidebar - Attributing the Five Large Porthole Reverse

Up until now, attribution of Hogge Money sixpence was a binary affair: it was either a small portholes variety, or it was the large portholes variety. Quite literally, numismatists would focus just on the size of the portholes. With a small mintage, it is reasonable to assume that only one or two dies would have been used. As a result, numismatists would focus on the most obvious difference to identify dies. It appears, however, that the original mintage was either greater or perhaps the die steel wasn't as hard as it needed to be as we see a greater proliferation of both obverse and reverse dies in the sixpence of this series.

At a quick glance, one could credibly attribute the sixpence, shown in Figure 5, as a large portholes sixpence. Closer examination, however, reveals that attribution may not be quite so simple! The large porthole variety features 4 large portholes, but this specimen has 5, with 2 of them very close together toward the ship's bow. The second porthole is also placed a little higher than the first. This inconsistency is not seen anywhere else on this variety or on any of the other sixpence reverse varieties.

Other important diagnostics are seen in the water. Water features can be a critical diagnostic as they are so complex and distinctive. The key diagnostic device is a pattern of 4 horizontal bars stacked vertically under the center of the ship. The top two are separated by a longer curved line, but the third and fourth are stacked directly beneath the second straight line. A similar feature appears on the large porthole variety, but these bars are longer.

Identifying different features is one thing; validating the coin's authenticity is quite another! The best proof of authenticity is to establish the new die's place in a die emission sequence, or simply demonstrate that it is married to a previously known authentic die.

With the proposed 5 Large Portholes variety, such proof is easy. It is paired with the most common Hogge Money sixpence obverse which features a small pig and the word ILANDS with great separation between the A the N and the D in that word. The “stop” used to separate the words (seen at 1 and 7 o’clock in the legend) is a cross *pattée*. This die is known paired with both the small and large portholes varieties. Its pairing with the new 5 Large Portholes variety is significant and establishes the authenticity of this new reverse.

The similarities with large portholes specimens are undeniable. If the coin wasn’t solidly struck, or struck off-center, critical diagnostic detail that could be used to differentiate them may be lost. Similarly, corrosion and/or circulation wear obscure details, which would also make it harder to differentiate between large portholes varieties. Factor in that both are known paired with the same obverse, and it is easy to see why people haven’t looked more critically for differences. Perhaps these are the reasons why this reverse variety has gone unattributed for 400 years.

While I am convinced that the 5 Large Porthole Reverse is a genuine and previously unattributed reverse die variety, a more formal process is underway to establish it as such. The owner has been in contact with a major numismatic certification company to properly evaluate this specimen. Perhaps after formal validation, more of these 5 Large Porthole specimens will be identified.

The Shilling

The shilling is a well-worn example of a small sails variety. It features heavy but honest wear and no sign of corrosion or environmental damage. There is, however, a rim clip that is clearly post-strike damage as it’s not a straight, circular, or ragged clip that one would expect from the minting process.



Figure 5: The Hogge Money shilling.

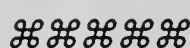
Conclusion

Finding a hoggie in a junk box probably hasn't happened since Sylvester Crosby's shilling was found in a bag of junk coppers in New York City some years prior to 1875. If it has happened since, I'm unaware of it. Finding five hoggies in a junk box is quite literally unprecedented. Finding five hoggies that include an ultra-rare threepence, one of the finest known twopence AND a sixpence with a previously undocumented reverse, is unimaginable. If someone were to tell me this story at a convention or while hoisting a Dark and Stormy, I would probably smile and think I was being punked.

As utterly unbelievable as this story may seem, it could only happen in Bermuda. It took the numismatic world until the last quarter of the 19th Century to finally accept Hogge Money as an obsolete colonial currency. Bermudians had accepted them long before that, and preserved them as cherished tokens of their nation's earliest days. It's not unheard of for old Bermudian families to pass such historic artifacts down through generations. Silverware, tankards, relics from shipwrecks and virtually anything that dates back to colonial days are privately preserved for future generations. Not every family has hoggies, but some do! A friend on the island confided that he believes if one were to open every safe deposit box on the island, the population of known hoggies would likely double. I believe him.

My belief stems from prior experience. In 2002, I gave a speech on Hogge Money at the ANA convention in New York City. My late friend, George Smith, flew in from Bermuda to hear that speech. George and I had been phone and email friends and auction rivals for some time, but had never met. As I shook his hand for the first time at that convention, he pressed a shilling and sixpence hoggies into my palm. He smiled and said that a proper speech should have hoggies on display.

After the speech, George swelled with pride showing off his coins proudly telling all who would listen that "nobody knows about these" because they had never been on the numismatic market. They were passed down through the generations in one family and he acquired them as a young man from that family. His mother was upset at how much he had spent, but he justified it by saying "That's Bermuda!" His statement neatly summarizes the Bermudian perspective on Hogge Money. They are not rare colonial coins: they are treasured cultural artifacts. And every now and then, an outsider like me is lucky enough to catch a glimpse of these private treasures.



EVIDENCE OF RED SEA PIRACY: THE DISCOVERY OF A LATE 17TH CENTURY ARABIAN COIN IN SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND

(James C. Bailey)

This article offers the study of late 17th Arabian coin found with a metal detector in Middletown, Rhode Island in early May, 2014. It's worth noting that Middletown at the time of the coin's manufacture was part of a larger Newport, RI, which was on its way to becoming one of the five major port cities in the American Colonies. The discovery of this coin, along with seven more pieces found in similar contexts, in the region, and subsequent research published herein provide what I believe to be the first hard evidence of Arabian coins circulating in the American Colonies, albeit briefly at the close of the 17th century – a matter of conjecture previously known only through the study of documentary evidence. This article describes the first known documented recovery of a complete silver coin of Arabian origin found in the context of an American Colonial-Period site. To my knowledge, such a coin in a similar context has never been reported before by an archaeologist, a detectorist, or in the discovery of a shipwreck or coin hoard.

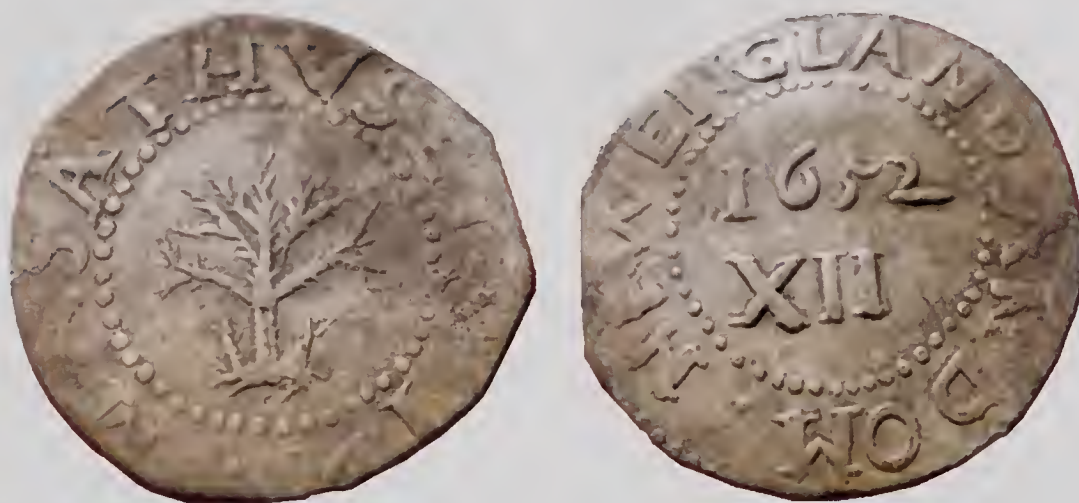


1693 Khums Kabir, 15-17 mm, 12.0 grains – Found in Middletown, RI. Photo by author.

Though the recovery of this coin is unique, there is little merit in vain superlatives. The coin was minted in Yemen on the Arabian Peninsula, and it was a long way from home when lost, especially by 17th century standards. The far-reaching circulation of such a coin seems quite implausible, yet the unlikely circumstances of this find lend themselves to only two tenable explanations ranging from a slight possibility to a near certain probability. Surprisingly, the latter explanation is both more credible and far more intriguing. This article will cover a number of topics: the recovery of coins and other artifacts from a mid-to-late 17th century house site; a study of the recovered artifacts, coins in particular, that dates the site back to the early Colonial Period; and research on the far-reaching circulation of one peculiar coin as it relates to historic events that played out on a world stage at the close of the 17th Century. While extensive research has uncovered numerous primary source documents that support a theory on the historical background for the coin, I will only cite some of the basic, essential sources due to limitations on article length. Another

publication will be forthcoming in the near future with a comprehensive, disciplined study of all primary source documents relating to the subject matter.

My metal detecting hobby dates nearly as far back as my start in numismatics over 30 years ago, and the recovery of colonial-period coins has been the sole focus of my searching over the past decade. I'm fortunate to live in southeastern New England, where centuries-old coins can be found due to English settlement of the area dating back to the 1630s. My concentration on colonial-period sites for the first couple of years produced a few Spanish silver half-*reales* from the 1780s and numerous coppers, mostly British halfpence and farthing coins, followed by a smaller even mix of other coppers - *Rosa Americanas*, *Hibernias*, *Nova Constellatios*, and state-issued coins. Unfortunately, the coppers are typically recovered with a dreadful amount of corrosion. In April, 2008, I recovered my first significant colonial-period coin, a 1652 Oak Tree shilling, while searching a local farm field, Sweet Berry Farm in Middletown, RI. The field was located upon the site of a long-vanished Colonial Period house that I had located through a detailed examination of a late 18th century map and modern aerial photos. In the years following the recovery of my prized Oak Tree shilling, I returned to the site for a few hunts in the spring and fall and recovered a wide variety of finds dating to the mid-17th century through the late 18th century: early coppers, buttons, buckles and buckle fragments, leather mounts, spoon fragments and ceramic shards (surface finds). New metal detectors offered improved depth capabilities and sensitivity. Upgrading my equipment and seasonal plowing produced more silver coins as well, two Spanish silver half-*real* cobs dating from 1725 and the mid-18th century.



1652 Oak Tree Shilling, Noe-14. Dug by the author at Sweet Berry Farm. Photo by author.

I visited the site again in early May, 2014, to wrap up a morning hunt. My earlier search at another nearby site had been modestly successful, and I figured on gambling my last hour of time at another location hoping to get lucky. I first wandered about a wide area for 20 minutes or so and then decided to make a one long run near the center of the site. I had only swept a few yards, when I came upon a slight, but steady high-toned target. I cut and flipped a deep plug of grass with my shovel. The signal was near top of the 8" plug that I had laid upside down. Upon checking the plug with a small detecting probe, I spotted a small, dark silver object protruding from the dirt. I was skeptical of it being much of anything, perhaps a small chip of slate, but my probe indicated otherwise, as it gave a loud

signal when pointed at the object. I removed some dirt and saw a small hammered silver coin. Any attempt to wipe the coin for a better view ran the risk of damage in the form of glaring scratches through the lightly toning on the coin. I needed some water! I dashed to my car leaving the coin *in situ*. On the way to my car for a bottle of water, I ran into the property owner, Jan Eckhart, of Sweet Berry Farm. I was glad of the chance meeting as he came back with me to share in the excitement of discovering what I had just found. I pointed out the coin to Jan, speculated on its identity, and drenched the small piece of silver with an application of water like that from an old-fashioned seltzer bottle. We plainly saw that the coin showed a surprising amount of detail, especially for a hammered piece, but strangely lacked any sort of image; moreover, its entire design consisted of obscure inscriptions that appeared to be Arabic. Had it been obtained by any other means - a coin auction, eBay, or private purchase - the coin would be dismissed as some old, obscure Arabian coin. I didn't know exactly what I had found, but I believed from my first glance that the coin had a rich history owing to its apparent place of origin and eventual recovery from a 17th century context in a part of Southern New England with a sordid past. I only needed to identify the exact origin of the strange coin, and more importantly, its mint year to confirm my suspicions, yet doing so would prove to be no easy task.



As dug photo of coin with Arabic inscriptions. Photo by author.

The Internet made it possible to identify many of my past colonial-period coins and other finds with relative ease; however, the search for this coin's identity was baffling for two reasons: the coin's inscription was completely foreign to me; and the coin was without any type of imagery. An online search of 17th century coins with Arabic script produced some examples with similar traits but no clear matches.

Initial insight on the coin's identity came from a close friend and fellow detectorist. He had recovered a similar coin a few years prior at a Colonial Period site in southeastern Massachusetts, about an hour's drive from where my coin was recovered. His coin was only 80% complete, likely due to a plow strike having fragmented it. In addition, one side of his coin bore only a slight amount of its design, while the other side was completely void of detail, apparently due to poor striking. Aside from the coin's detractions, it bore an inscription that closely matched what appeared on my coin. My friend had searched for his coin's identity without success until it came to him quite unexpectedly while sitting at home watching television. *Diggers*, a treasure hunting reality-television program on the National Geographic channel, featured the discovery of an identical coin fragment recovered in nearby Newport, RI.¹ I was certainly no fan of the *Diggers* TV show with all

its scripted hype, but I had no other leads to follow for identifying my strange coin, so I watched the episode online. It featured the recovery of a worn, fragmented coin (60% complete), which was also reduced into two smaller fragments upon recovery. Yet enough detail was visible to see that the coin closely matched what I had recovered. More importantly, the show correctly identified the coin as a silver *Khums Kabir* from Yemen, a location that fit squarely with my prevailing theory on the intriguing history behind my long-lost coin. My theory required a very specific date for the coin – the last decade of the 17th century – possibly earlier, but certainly no later. Dating the coin was the next order of business.

An online search of *Khums Kabir* coins produced only a few results, but I did find one specialist in Islamic and Indian coins, Steve Album (Steve Album Rare Coins), in Santa Barbara, CA, whom I contacted. While speaking with him by phone, I e-mailed pictures of the coin and eagerly waited on his verdict. He said that I was fortunate to have contacted him, as he was one of only a few people in the United States who could identify such an obscure coin. Identifying the coin with ease, he provided me with the all-important date of 1693 and kindly sent a follow-up e-mail with additional details. He also confirmed that my coin was a *Khums Kabir* from Yemen.

During our phone conversation, he stated that my coin was in rather nice condition and had a numismatic value of \$100. He added that coins from Yemen in numismatic terms are “the most unappreciated coins on the face of the planet.” None of that mattered to me, as I valued the coin much more for its historical significance.

The country of Yemen today is located at the southern end of the Arabian Peninsula. Yemen borders on Saudi Arabia to the North and Oman to the East. The Mandeb Strait lies off the extreme southwestern point of Yemen, dividing the south coast along the Arabian Sea from the west coast along the vital Red Sea. Yemen is a name of modern usage. In the 17th century, the whole southern region of the Arabian Peninsula, including modern-day Yemen, was called *Arabia Felix* or *Arabia the Happie* – *felix* being a Latin term synonymous with happy, fortunate, and fruit-bearing. *Arabia Felix* referred to the fertile soils and rainfall of Southern Arabia in sharp contrast to the arid conditions elsewhere in Arabia. In addition, most primary source documents of the 17th century refer to Southern Arabia (modern Yemen), by its vibrant trade port, Mocha, a port of call for all ships plying the Red Sea trade due to its location near the narrow Mandeb Strait at the entrance to the Red Sea. When my coin was issued in 1693, Mocha and most everywhere else in Southern Arabia was under the arbitrary rule of al-Hadi Muhammad, an imam of the Qasimids Dynasty. While earlier imams were religiously consecrated leaders, those of the Qasimids ruled through a hereditary dynasty. However, the Qasimids were successful in re-establishing sovereign rule after forcing out the Turks of the Ottoman Empire and bringing prosperity to the region.

The recovery of the Yemeni coin from a 17th century context in New England would seem quite implausible, but answers can be found in the historical records of the time, providing a likely provenance for the coin that is absolutely fascinating and hard to dispute. Did the coin come to Newport through long-distance trading? The answer to this question requires

a hard look at American colonial trade in the late 17th century operating as best it could under the mercantilist policies of Mother England. Beyond an exchange of raw materials for manufactured goods from England, the colonies traded among each other along the Atlantic seaboard and in provisioning lucrative sugar plantations in the Caribbean. Long-distance trading in the colonies extended to exports of wheat, flour, corn, and fish to southern Europe, while a second route took interlopers all the way to the East Coast of Africa, where slaves were obtained from Madagascar for sale primarily in the Caribbean market. The Malagasy slave trade slowed considerably in the 1690's when the Royal African Company lost its monopoly on the West Coast of Africa, and all comers rushed in from England and the British American Colonies to enter the Atlantic slave trade.

While the American Colonies voyaged all the way to Madagascar, their pursuit of trade did not extend further to the Red Sea. Trade in those distant waters was dominated by the Mughal Empire in India through the extensive exporting of surplus raw materials and basic manufactured goods to Arab partners at major ports on the Red Sea, such as Jeddah, the gateway to Mecca and, of course, Mocha. Most of the Red Sea region was controlled by the vast Ottoman Empire, whose territories ranged far and wide all the way from the Mediterranean. Trade on the Red Sea between the Mughal and Ottoman Empires was too good to go unnoticed by European powers; the Portuguese came first and muscled their way in, followed by the Dutch and finally the English in the form of the British East India Company. The shipping lanes of the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean were a highway of trade for empires and kingdoms dealing in quality textiles, spices, coffee, gold, and silver. Upstart merchants from the American colonies offering bric-a-brac trade in salted fish and barrel staves had no business in the Red Sea.

The distant circulation of any Arabian silver coin via trade all the way to New England is doubtful upon considering England's self-serving mercantilist policies that dictated economic subservience from the American Colonies through the Navigation Acts. As an economic principle, mercantilism focused on building a nation's wealth through government regulation of commerce, particularly trade, at the expense of its colonial possessions and rival nations. England's mercantilist agenda in the second half of the 17th century was pursued through the Navigation Acts with a number of regulations and consequences: all trade to and from the American Colonies was carried aboard ships of England and the American colonies - not foreign ships; all European goods exported to the colonies had to pass through England; an increasingly broad tax base on goods and commodities was subject to ever higher taxes; and higher costs were passed on to the colonists as their counterparts in England took greater profits in the business of exporting due to a lack of competition.

One other consequence of the Navigation Acts, the steady drain of gold and silver specie from the colonies to England, is well known in the study of colonial numismatics and most clearly negates a theory for trade on the origins of this Arabian silver coin. The steady flow of gold and silver to England bolstered the coffers of a growing empire, but to what end? Were deposits of gold and silver simply stockpiled as a symbol of England's wealth? Large amounts of gold and silver bullion did not remain in England. Much of it was needed to bankroll the British East India Company, as Mughal traders insisted on

payment in the precious metals for its highly prized textiles and other exports; thus, the drain of gold and especially silver from the American Colonies to England was only the first course in a continuous flow of precious bullion to the east that reflected an emerging world market. Any assumption that the coin came to Rhode Island through trade does not take into account the obvious: gold and, particularly silver, flowed nearly half way around the world west to east as demanded by trade, but the recovered coin moved equally far in the opposite direction - east to west! Similarly, facts of 17th century trade present a stumbling block to any misplaced emphasis on the coin coming to Rhode Island through the slave trade. The American Colonies did travel to Madagascar, but that destination fell far short of reaching the trade routes between the Red Sea and the Mughal Empire. Most importantly, silver was simply not exchanged in the slave trade. African slave traders on the east coast did not deal in silver; they dealt in slaves that were exchanged for utilitarian goods – cotton cloth from India, iron products, trinkets, guns and ammunition from England, and similar products from the American colonies.

American colonists were capable of distant voyages to the Red Sea, but taking up trade in the region faced several insurmountable obstacles – sparse marketable goods and commodities for exchange, a lack of trade contacts in a distant, foreign land, England's Navigation Acts, and the total control of the distant markets by the British East India Company that served England's mercantilist policies. These obstacles mattered little to those American colonists who sailed for the Red Sea to obtain riches by more direct, forceful means; whatever could not be acquired by trade would be taken all the same through piracy.

In the 1690s many pirates abandoned the hunting grounds of the Spanish Main for richer prizes in the Red Sea and across the Indian Ocean. This period in the history of piracy is known as the "Pirate Round," a reference to the long eastward voyage that required rounding Africa to reach their destination. Some of the English colonies along the Atlantic seaboard were extensively involved in pirating on the Red Sea, and Rhode Island played a leading role. Piracy was good for business in Newport, Rhode Island. Outgoing voyages required ships to be built, outfitted with supplies, and manned with crews – the Roundsmen. Ships returning to port brought in hard-to-get trade goods and the pirates' enormous earnings, which soon entered the local economy after being spent on wine, women, and song. The extent of Rhode Island's involvement in Red Sea piracy is revealed in numerous primary documents consisting of correspondences between colonial governors, Board of Trade officials back in England, and other authorities. In his letter to the Commissioners of Customs, dated November 10, 1696, Colonial Officer Edward Randolph's description of Rhode Island states "This is a free port to pirates and illegal traders of all places. In 1694 a pirate came from the Red Sea thither with a £100,000 in gold and silver."² Similarly, Royal Governor Richard Coote, the Earl of Bellomont, wrote on November 27, 1699, that the "government of Rhode Island is notoriously faulty in countenancing and harboring pirates, who have openly and brought in and disposed of their effects there; whereby the place has greatly been enriched."³

Documentary evidence of circumstances connecting Red Sea piracy based in Newport to the recovered Yemeni coin is hard to dispute; moreover, historical records

detail the capture of two Mughal vessels in 1695 from which the coin was most likely taken in a famous incident that epitomized Rhode Island's extensive involvement in the Pirate Round. The plundering of these two vessels, the *Fateh Muhammed* and the *Ganj-i-sawai* (anglicized as *Gunsway*), by English pirates would have serious repercussions for the British East India Company that echoed all the way back to England and beyond to its colonial possessions in America. The Mughal Empire was ruled by Muslims, and the two vessels were taken in September 1695 while returning home to India after Haj, the annual pilgrimage to Mecca in Arabia. The unfortunate pilgrims were chased down by an armada of six pirate ships working as consorts, four of which had sailed out from Newport, RI. The better known pirate captains among the consorts included Henry Every of the *Fancy* and Thomas Tew of the *Amity*, from Newport, who was on his second cruise to the Red Sea. In the action of taking the two Mughal ships, some pirate crews fared better than others. Captain Tew was killed in action while attempting to capture one Mughal vessel, possibly the *Fateh Muhammed*, while Captain Every and his crew took most of the plunder from the captures.

CAPT. AVERY and his crew taking one of the GREAT MOGUL'S Ships.

Johnson, Charles, *A General and True History of the Lives and Actions of the Most Famous Highwaymen, Murderers, Street-Robbers &c. To Which Is Added, a Genuine Account of the Voyages and Plunders of the Most Notorious Pyrate*, London, 1734.

News of the incident was bad for England's overseas trading interest, as the *Gunsway* was a treasure ship belonging to Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb. The plunder from the *Gunsway* was an immense haul worth at the time an estimated £200,000 to £600,000, arguably the biggest score in the history of piracy. Due to the notoriety of their exploits, the crew of the *Fancy* were now wanted men throughout the Kingdom of England. Though most had come from England, going back home risked capture. Much of the ship's company likely took note of the home port of the other consorts in the pirate flotilla, and so, as the ships in the flotilla parted and the ship companies went their separate ways, some of the Roundsmen made their way to Newport. . Newport was at a safe distance from the unfolding outrage over the attack on the Mughal fleet, and its local population had few concerns for England's overseas trade interests in a distant part of the world. Crew members from the *Fancy* sought to avoid discovery, and the American colonies, particularly Rhode Island, proved to be a good destination for retiring Roundsmen seeking a new life of anonymity.



Some crew members from the *Fancy* were brazen enough to sail back home to England. Several were apprehended, tried and convicted for their crimes, then finally met their end at Execution Dock on the shore of the Thames; however, the manhunt for the

Roundsmen was largely ineffective, as only five or six pirates were executed from a ship company of approximately 180 men from the *Fancy*, not including those who sailed aboard the consort ships. While the English government produced scant results in bringing their wayward mariners to justice, primary source documents relating to their efforts are substantial and insightful, particularly in regards to the court trial records that underscore the likelihood of the recovered coin having come from the *Gunsway*.

According to the pirates' testimony from the court records, the two Mughal ships made their last port of call at Mocha before being taken.⁴ The testimony is quite credible. Passengers aboard the *Gunsway* were returning from Haj, and for many Pilgrims the trip was a mix of religious obligation and business. The long voyage across the Indian Ocean and through the Red Sea offered opportunities for trade at bustling ports, especially Mocha. In the 1690s Mocha was the principal port of the Red Sea where merchants came from afar to deal in the growing world market. The port's prosperity was clearly evident from the ships anchored in the roadstead for trade: vessels from other ports on the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf; trade companies from Europe with shipments to its factories; slave ships from North Africa, and Mughal vessels including those of the annual pilgrimage fleet. Merchants of the Mughal fleet would sell off their surplus commodity goods – cotton, silks, spices, and indigo to buyers from Mocha who offered just what the sellers required for payment - ready cash primarily in the form of silver. Location was a key factor in Mocha's success as a successful trade port, but it also provided a single commodity of note that fueled the trade port's economy in the same way that it fuels the work day ritual of people around the world today. Mocha's main commodity was coffee beans, which it held as a monopoly for much of the 17th century when numerous coffeehouses began to appear through much of Europe offering "Arabian wine."

During the trial, testimony also mentioned Rhode Island's unwholesome reputation as a safe haven for pirates on the run. This testimony prompted the Board to Trade to write Rhode Island Governor Walter Clarke in February of 1697 with words to the wise and the wicked. They cautioned that "upon occasion of the late trials of some of Every's crew here, severall [sic] informations have been transmitted to us, wherein mention is made of Rhode Island, as a place where pirates are ordinarily too kindly entertained."⁵

The 1693 coin is appropriately dated, i.e., before the capture of the *Gunsway* in 1695, and it also has only a slight amount of wear that would be expected from a coin of brief, intermittent, yet far-reaching circulation. Within an approximate period of two years, the coin very likely traveled from where it was minted to stowage aboard the *Gunsway* at the port of Mocha. After crossing the Indian Ocean, the *Gunsway* was captured by the Roundsmen off the west coast of India. The coin was probably then taken as plunder, being a miniscule but genuine portion of treasure that, according to one pirate's statement, amounted to "so much Gold and Silver in Coyned money and plate as made up each mans [sic] share with what they had taken before about £1000 pounds a man, there being about 180 that had their dividents."⁶ My coin was likely among countless others that were then transferred aboard the *Fancy*, which sailed to New Providence (Nassau) in the Bahamas, where the governor provided short-term sanctuary for a price. The crew soon split up arranging passage for Ireland, Pennsylvania, New York, and Rhode Island.

The coin was recovered only 3½ miles from Newport Harbor where Roundsmen of the *Fancy* no doubt strolled about the waterfront, considering their new prospects. One can easily imagine the coin being spent on rum at a waterfront tavern to toast their happy arrival from the Red Sea then being passed in other transactions, brought home by a colonist to his home, and later lost on his property until it was recovered over three centuries later.



A plan of the town of Newport in Rhode Island.
Blaskowitz, C. & Faden, W. (1777). [London] [Map]
Retrieved from the Library of Congress,
<https://www.loc.gov/item/74692105/>.

Arabian silver specie undoubtedly circulated through Newport, but the magnitude of the crime in plundering the *Gunsway* was so severe that even 3,000 miles of open Atlantic could not insulate the colonies from the king's prerogative back in England. In May, 1698, King William III put his subjects in the American Colonies on notice with a proclamation for the "seizing of all pirates, and in especial manner Henry Every, and several of his company."⁷ The proclamation in Rhode Island noted that "severall [sic] persons are lately come into said government, which are justly suspected by their great quantity of foreign coin, and East India goods, to be pirates and robbers upon the high seas."⁸

The evidence of additional Arabic coin finds is scant, but that's no surprise in light of the king's proclamation issued to the beat of drums throughout the American colonies. For the townspeople of Newport, the situation called for some discretion. This situation happened to occur at a time when local silversmiths in the late 17th century began converting and consolidating their customers' accumulated silver specie into silver plate, which was marked with monograms, crests, and other identifying marks as a safeguard against theft. Likewise, the ill-gotten coins of Muslims infidels likely found their way to the silversmith's crucible in short order and transformed into splendid tankards, wine cups, and spoons that graced the tables of god-fearing, Christian colonists. The shameless crafting of silver plate marked to deter future theft from pirated silver seems at odds with the perceived image of the righteous, hardworking colonist.

While the *Khums Kabir* coin can never be directly attributed to any specific pirate or voyage, its connection to piracy is beyond all doubt due to the coin's mint date of 1693, its origins from southern Arabia, and its recovery from a late 17th century context in

Newport, RI. The Spanish piece of eight cob is the quintessential pirate coin and with good reason, as Spanish silver is often mentioned in the primary source documents relating to piracy. Although some of these coins certainly came to the colonies through piracy, far more came through legitimate trade, and discerning the early provenance of coins is hardly possible, excluding coins excavated from shipwrecks. Shipwrecks can offer up an assemblage of artifacts from a specific period to time, a moment in time, from which a ship's identity can be determined, but only two pirate shipwrecks have been found worldwide - the *Whydah Gally* and *Queen Anne's Revenge*.⁹ Artifacts recovered from the *Whydah* including thousands of coins, largely consisting of Spanish silver taken by Captain Sam Bellamy and his crew. The entire assemblage of artifacts recovered from the *Whydah* has remained whole in one collection over the past 30 years. *Queen Anne's Revenge*, which was captained by the notorious Blackbeard, has yielded over 280,000 artifacts, but few if any coins have been found as the vessel was scuttled by its crew. Neither vessel sailed during the short-lived Pirate Round; instead, these ships prowled the waters of the Atlantic 20 years after the heydays of voyaging to the Red Sea.

Over the years I have found popular, better known Colonial Period coins that offer more numismatic appeal, but in regards to historical significance, my coin from the Pirate Round has no equal in my collection. An old coin offers an alluring connection to the historical past felt by both the casual collector and the devoted numismatist alike. A coin cannot be separated from its history. Although we might imagine the history of an old coin circulating during famous events in the possession of adventurous characters, everyone knows that such thoughts are nothing more than fanciful suppositions; consequently, we seek information about coins in much the same way that a historian studies history. We stick to the facts or as close to the facts as possible: information regarding the minting of coins; where and when coins circulated; and perhaps a general history of that at time and place.

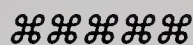
I believe that the unlikely recovery of the 1693 *Khums Kabir* establishes an unusual, complete provenance that is fascinating and equally certain. From the minting of the coin in Southern Arabia to its eventual loss in Newport, the journey of the coin can be followed in the historical documents of the period. Definitive proof of a connection between the *Khums Kabir* coin and Henry Every's voyage aboard the *Fancy* is not possible; however, the coin's connection to the Red Sea piracy is all but certain. If it wasn't Henry Every and the crew of the *Fancy*, it was another captain, another ship, another crew – Roundsmen all the same that brought back this coin and great deal more. They were men of a devil-may-care disposition who endured two year voyages to get rich or die trying in the Red Sea. Thomas Tew and Henry Every were among the first leading the led way to the Red Sea, but others soon followed in their wake on the Pirate Round and later turned up in Rhode Island; they included Joseph Bradish, James Gillam, and the infamous though misjudged Captain William Kidd, to name just a few.

I hope that this article contributes to the ever-broadening study of colonial period coins. The circulation of silver Arabian coins within the American Colonies, no matter how brief, underscores the wonderful diversity of coins from the period that fascinates all those who specialize in colonial numismatics. Future efforts by detectorists hold out

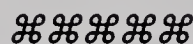
promise for further recoveries and subsequent research that will deepen our understanding of the Colonial Period. There is more history out there waiting to be found, researched, and understood. Finding a noteworthy coin or other artifact should not be a fleeting end-all. As presented in this article, the subsequent research was just as important as the discovery of the coin itself. The odd, obscure appearance of the miniscule silver coin I recovered belied a vivid connection to significant world events – a history that could only be realized with extensive research that proved most rewarding.

Notes and References:

- ¹ “Mystery Coin,” *Diggers* (television show), Washington, DC, National Geographic Channel, first aired March 4, 2014.
- ² Fortescue, J. W., ed., *Calendar of State Papers, Colonial Series, America and West Indies, 15 May, 1696-31 October, 1697* (London, Mackie and Co., 1904) 214.
- ³ Barlett, John Russell, ed., *Records of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations in New England*, vol. 3 (Providence, Knowles, Anthony & Co., 1858) 387.
- ⁴ “The Tryals of Joseph Dawson, Edward Forseith, William May, William Bishop, James Lewis, John Sparkes,” *Admiralty Sessions* (London, 1696) 18.
- ⁵ Barlett, 322.
- ⁶ Jameson, John Franklin, *Privateering and Piracy in the Colonial Period: Illustrative Documents* (New York, Augustus M. Kelly, Publishers, 1970) 171-174.
- ⁷ Barlett, 338.
- ⁸ *Ibid.*
- ⁹ A possible third candidate for discovered pirate shipwrecks is the *Speaker*, which sank in 1702 off Mauritius in the Indian Ocean. Identity of the little known shipwreck is suggested by the recovery of artifacts excavated from the ship in the early 1980s.



Editor’s Note: Jim Bailey’s article and his underlying research are sure to stimulate great discussion. The forthcoming, more detailed article to which he refers is scheduled to appear in a future issue of “The Colonial Newsletter.”



ALL THINGS MUST PASS....”

(Arnold Miniman)

...was the title of George Harrison’s first solo album released in November of 1970, less than a year after the breakup of the Beatles. I started my journey into the world of numismatics two years earlier, while working as a part-time bank teller. Before that time coins were like currency, meant to be spent on life’s necessities and occasional diversions.

Now, nearly 50 years later, the time has come to sell my collection. Yes, all things must pass. As collectors of colonial related material we are caretakers, preserving and enjoying our collections until it is time to pass our treasures on to the next generation of collectors. In this article I will discuss how a part-time bank teller evolved into a serious collector of colonial coins.

On my first day at the bank in 1968, it was suggested that I “pull all the silver coins.” “Why?” I asked. The teller explained that the mint had stopped producing silver dimes and quarters after 1964, and had reduced the amount of silver in half dollars. This revelation grabbed my attention and soon I was searching rolls of dimes, quarters and halves for silver.

I also began to notice the different designs on coinage. Back then there were plenty of Franklin halves in circulation and I also came across the occasional Buffalo nickel, Walking Liberty half, and even a few Indian cents and Standing Liberty quarters. I decided to visit a local coin shop in Silver Springs, Maryland, Bonanza Coins, owned then by Al Bonan.

Al was very helpful, willing to spend time with a novice like me. I bought my first *Red Book* in 1969. Admittedly, I was drawn to the section on classic commemorative coins, with all those interesting designs. I began purchasing a few examples, a Boone, Texas, Arkansas and Oregon Trail, if memory serves me.

As the years passed I graduated from law school, returned to New Jersey to begin my career as an attorney, married, had children, and tried to stay interested in the hobby. I would stop for a while, regain interest, lose interest, have my modest collection robbed, and before I knew it the year 1992 was upon me.

In November of 1992, I attended a one-day coin show in Parsippany, New Jersey. I still knew nothing about colonial coins. The significance of this event was that for the first time I learned that there existed grading services that assigned a numerical grade to a coin which became encapsulated in plastic. Wow, I thought, this is interesting. I also purchased my first loupe, a Bausche & Lomb black 5-power. Now I was capable of seeing detail on a coin!

I still pursued the classic commemoratives in the early 90s, but also became interested in collecting U.S. coins by type. I was never interested in filling holes in Whitman folders, probably because I started collecting as an adult. I attended shows more frequently and, in 1993, began what would become a semi-annual pilgrimage to Baltimore to attend the show in the convention center on Pratt Street. There I met, over time, many of the coin dealers from all over the country. I became friends with some of the them and was taught to buy coins with eye appeal.

By 1994 I was totally immersed in the hobby. As my collecting tastes matured I focused away from white (usually cleaned) coins and began seeking nicely toned specimens. I bought

uncirculated commemorative coins, and U.S. type coins with as much detail as my budget would allow. Then it happened.

Two incidents led me into the colonial arena. First, in 1994, I read an article in the “New Jersey Star Ledger” about a discovery coin, a New Jersey copper that had the initials W.M. engraved below the horse head on the obverse of the coin. The initials were that of the coin’s engraver, Walter Mould. While that was somewhat interesting at the time, what I focused on was the fact that the article noted that there had been three mints producing copper coins in New Jersey during the colonial period. They were located in Elizabeth, Rahway and Morristown. I had grown up near Elizabeth and Rahway, and worked professionally in Morristown, where the discovery coin had apparently been minted.

Figure 1: CFG reprint of Maris’ *The Coins of New Jersey*.

By chance, I met John Higgins, the dealer who discovered the coin, while attending the Garden State coin show that spring. He had a table at the show and displayed the “Mould” coin in a large lucite holder. John was kind enough to give me a brief history of the New Jersey coppers, and directed me to a dealer who was selling a reprint of the Maris book on New Jersey coppers. The book, a 1987 reprint by CFG Publications of Glen Rock, New Jersey, became my first colonial related purchase.



The second incident occurred when my collector friend, Bob, met Spencer Peck, who invited us to attend a meeting of the New Jersey Numismatic Society in Madison, New Jersey. The Club still meets at the Madison Library once per month. I joined the Club and was exposed to a wealth of numismatic expertise. I met, and became friendly with the Club’s colonial collectors, Spencer, Ray Williams, and Harry Resigno.

In June of 1994, I attended the Stack’s Globus sale in New York City. I don’t believe I had any intention of bidding on a New Jersey copper at the sale, and do not recall looking at any colonial lots at the preview. Harvey Stack was the auctioneer. Lot 239 was a New Jersey copper, Maris 38-y. It opened at \$65 with no takers. Harvey implored “Do I hear 70 dollars? Won’t anyone bid 70 dollars?” So I raised my hand and bought my first colonial coin for \$70 plus the 10% commission, for a total of \$77.

My journey as a colonial coin collector had begun. I bought the *Breen Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins*. It became my “bible.” The pursuit of colonial coins became a passion, but it presented a problem. I was used to obtaining uncirculated or nearly uncirculated commemorative and U.S. type coins. Colonial coins were far from perfect, often struck on crude planchets and well worn. I had to learn to lower my expectations if I were to collect them.

In the fall of 2004, I attended two Bowers & Merena auctions in New York City. While I was certainly interested in New Jersey coppers, I liked the design of the Massachusetts cents and half cents. I managed to acquire an example of each from the auctions. Then, in 1996, with great fanfare, Bowers & Merena held the first of two Louis Eliasberg auctions. The first was held at the St. Moritz hotel in New York City on May 20-22.

I obtained the auction catalog and was exposed, for the first time, to a beautiful selection of colonial coins. They were the first coins to be auctioned on May 20, lots 1-109. I was determined

to get one coin out of the sale. I sat in the audience with my friend Bob and Larry Shepherd. I got nothing! I could not believe what the coins were bringing! I remember being depressed when I left the hotel. Yet I was hooked, and there was no looking back.

My introduction to C4

I was unaware of the existence of the Colonial Coin Collectors Club until Ray Williams told me about it sometime in 1995. I was advised that the Club was having a convention in South Jersey in October of 1996, and would sponsor an auction during the convention. I decided to drive to Pennsauken to learn more about colonial coinage and, perhaps, pick up a few pieces at the auction. I was told that to bid at the sale I had to be a C4 member. So in October I joined C4, which means that I am about to celebrate twenty years as a member.

Frankly, my experience at the C4 convention was overwhelming. I knew so little about the different types of colonial coins and there were so many (over 500) in the Scott Barnes sale. I tried to examine as many lots as possible, and probably drove Dennis Wierzba a little crazy. “Who was this guy anyway?” he probably thought.

I purchased two coins from my first C4 auction, lot 259, a 1788 Connecticut copper, and lot 514, a 1783 Nova Constellatio, small US, pointed rays.

In 1997 the C4 convention moved to Boston in conjunction with the Bay State show at the Radisson hotel. My wife loves Boston so I had no trouble convincing her to head north. As I entered the bourse area I looked around, observing the dealers and collectors. “What a strange group” I thought. Nothing like the dealers and collectors I got to know when I bought commemoratives and U.S. type coins. I knew nobody there other than Ray and Spencer.

As the years passed I felt more comfortable amongst the colonial people. Ray would become president of C4 during the summer of 2000. I developed relationships with many of the dealers and sought them out when I attended the Baltimore Expo. In particular, I would almost always find something to purchase at Bob Rue’s table. My area of interest was, and always has been, type coins. Yes, it is nice to have 100 NJ varieties, or perhaps 200 Connecticut varieties, but I prefer what is generically called *Red Book* varieties, just as I had sought *Red Book* varieties of the Federal issues.

From 1995 until 2003, I continued to learn and expand my collection. I fell in love with the Vermont landscape varieties, met Tony Carlotto at a C4 convention, and bought his book on the series in 2001. I was also drawn to the Wood’s Rosa Americana and Hibernia series. My first Hibernia coin, a 1723 halfpenny, harp right, was purchased from a dealer in September of 1996, and I bought my first Rosa Americana, a 1723 penny, from Jack Beymer in March at the Baltimore Expo.

Figure 2: Tony Carlotto’s *The Copper Coins of Vermont*.



Sometimes luck can be part of the equation. In November of 2001, my wife, Chris, and I attended the C4 convention in Boston. At the time Chris was actively collecting Mercury dimes. On Friday evening Chris mentioned that she had seen a dime she liked, and asked me to look at it when the

bourse opened on Saturday. The dealer was Andrew Seminerio. I went to his table and examined the dime. When I was through I asked if he had any colonial coins for sale. He replied that he had only two, one of which was 1 1723 uncrowned rose halfpenny, a key to the series.

He explained that he had bought the coin as part of a collection years before, and it sat in his safe deposit box. One day, while searching through the box he saw the halfpenny, did a little research and realized that it was valuable so he sent it to PCGS for grading and it came back Fine 12. So it did not come cheap, but I bought it and was glad Chris had asked me to examine a Mercury dime.

I also became interested in Washington related items. In June of 1996, I purchased a Large Eagle cent from David Lawrence Rare coins, and in November of that year I won a Small Eagle cent at auction.

Along came Ford

In 1998 I made what was by far my most expensive colonial purchase, a small planchet Pine Tree shilling, Noe 16, from Bob Rhue. By 2003, I had a growing numismatic library that included a reprint of the Crosby book and numerous catalogs of well-known auctions, such as Norweb, Garrett and Brand. But I had begun collecting too late to have actually seen the colonials in those sales. Then along came the Ford sales.

Being a northern New Jersey resident made it easy to drive into New York City to preview auction lots. Part I of Ford, in October of 2003, contained Continental dollars, Vermont coppers, New Jersey coppers and Fugio cents. It was the most remarkable collection of colonial coins I had ever seen, and this was just the beginning! There was also a wealth of information about Ford and F.C.C. Boyd in the auction catalog. I never had the opportunity to meet John Ford but during the span of time that his coins were sold I learned a lot about him, some good things and some not so good.

I was able to obtain one coin from the first sale, lot 187, a camel head variety New Jersey copper, Maris 56-n. The second Ford auction was conducted on May 11, 2004. Ironically, I obtained my second Ford coin, a Vermont bust right, Ryder 12, from the Heritage Central States sales seven days earlier. The coin had been lot 14 in Ford I, and was now housed in a PCGS AU-50 holder. As soon as I won the lot I contacted Heritage to try to get the flip from the Ford sale. I was advised that it had been “discarded,” and later learned that Heritage had purchased a number of coins from Ford I only to discard the pedigree information. To me it was a sad commentary.

Who knows why we are attracted to a certain coin or series of coins. Certainly no two colonial collections are exactly alike. I never really cared for the French colonies series, although I ended up collecting a few varieties. I was drawn to the Talbot, Allum & Lee series, even though they aren't really coins and, should I say it, not really colonials since they were produced during George Washington's presidency.

Ray and Syd

As noted above, Ford II was conducted on May 11, 2004. It contained a variety of coins and medals, including an extensive collection of Washington related items and Indian Peace medals. Toward the end of the catalog were coins from the Talbot series, lots 329-360. I went to New York to preview the coins but a conflict prevented me from attending the sale. Remember, this was before bidding was conducted over the internet. I knew Ray would be attending the sale,

and asked if he would be willing to represent me. He agreed, not realizing what he was getting into. I prepared detailed bidding instructions to guide him at the sale. Am I anal? See figure 3 and decide for yourself.

Anyway, Ray managed to obtain for me four lots out of the sale, two medals and two Talbot pieces. Lot 62 was a Washington and Franklin peace medal, and lot 94 was a Halliday medal. Lot 331 was a Talbot “Without New York” piece, one of five in the sale. Finally, lot 360 was the York Cathedral mule, which I believe is the rarest of the Talbot mules, and the only example in the sale. It was by far the most I had spent on colonial coins at auction to that point.

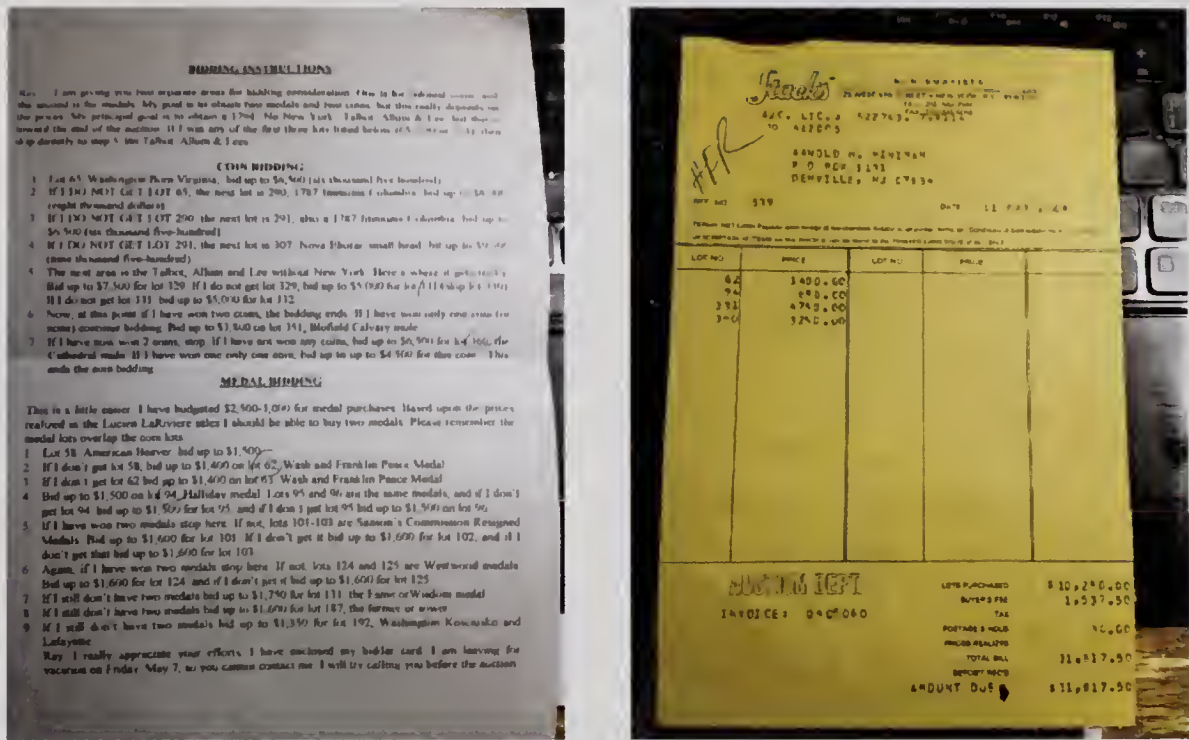


Figure 3: My bidding instructions for Stacks' Ford II sale and the resulting invoice.

That distinction lasted for about a year. Ford IX, held on May 10, 2005, contained an amazing run of Rosa Americana pieces. I distinctly remember going to Stacks' to preview the coins in the auction. There were so many varieties I had never seen before, such as lot 102, a copper proof penny, lots 124 and 125, 1723/3 halfpennies and lot 161, a silvered 1723 twopence.

There were also all those amazing patterns. When I was done drooling over the coins I mentioned to Tony Terranova that I didn't believe I would be able to obtain any of them. He replied that he thought I would. I knew that if I did manage to win one of the lots I would probably be unable to afford any other coins in the sale. The opening bids on coins that were of interest to me were very strong. Little did I know that this was just the beginning.

Figure 4: Stacks' Ford IX sale, selected opening bids.

FORD SALE IX BIDDING		
LOT	DESCRIPTION	OPENING BID
102	1722 penny proof	7,000
125	1723/2 halfpenny uncrowned rose	750
136	1723 penny stop after rex	1,500
161	1723 Silvered twopence	6,500
162	Undated pattern halfpenny Crosby plate	2,500
163	Undated pattern penny pre-patent	2,000
166	Undated pattern penny with branches pre-patent	2,000
167	Undated pattern penny pre-patent	2,000
168	1717 pre-patent twopence	5,000
170	undated pattern twopence Br-83	3,250
174	1723 off metal halfpenny, crowned rose, silver	9,000
176	1723 pattern twopence Br-91	6,500
177	1723 trial twopence, Br-93	5,500
179	undated George I Rosa Spina pattern penny	2,800
180	undated Wilhelmina Charlotte Rosa Spina penny	2,000
182	1724/23 pattern penny Br-126	4,260
185	1724/23 pattern penny Br-131, silvered	2,000
186	1724 twopence pattern Br-9	4,750
188	1724 pattern twopence Br-102	4,250
189	1724 pattern twopence Br-102	1,500
192	1733 pattern twopence gem proof Br-106	16,000
193	1733 pattern twopence choice proof Br-106	8,500
198	1785 Roman head M 2-A. 1	2,000
206	1785 M.3 4-F.1	800
214	1785 M.4 3-A.2	600
223	1785 M.6 1-A.1	650
242	1786 double chin M 1-A Miller plate	875
247	1786 scholar head M 3-D.1	875

Some of the more common Rosa pieces opened low but were bid up dramatically. For example, lot 115, a 1722 penny, opened at \$750 and was hammered at \$2,200. Lot 108, another 1722 penny, opened at \$950 and hammered at \$5,500 (and this was before the 15% commission was calculated). It went on and on. The two 1723/2 halfpennies were hammered at \$5,500 and \$4,500, after opening at \$875 and \$750 respectively. I was becoming very discouraged.

Then the patterns began. I braced myself. Lot 162, the pre-patent halfpenny, was plated (See Figure 5.), and had an incredible pedigree: Crosby, Parmelee, B. Max Mehl, Norweb and, of course, Ford. No way was I getting this one. But I did! I stretched to my final bid, \$9,500. I waited, and waited and there was silence. When I realized I had won the coin I got up, turned around and gave Tony Terranova a big hug. Then I left, having spent almost as much for one coin than I had for four lots at Ford II.



Figure 5: Pre-patent Rosa Americana halfpenny, Stacks' Ford IX sale. Photo courtesy Stacks Bowers.

In 2007, Syd Martin completed his book *The Hibernia Coinage of William Wood*. I did not know Syd prior to the publication of his book. Not one to sit on his laurels, Syd began his next project, *The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood*, which was released in 2011. Sometime before 2011 Ray Williams told Syd that I had a nice collection of Rosa pieces. We made contact and met in Flemington, New Jersey where he examined my modest collection. I feel honored that Syd thought well enough of my collection to include it in his book in appendix C-2 "Table of Rosa Americana holdings."

From 2010 through 2015 I acquired four more Massachusetts silver coins, an Oak Tree shilling from John Agree, an Oak Tree twopence from the Stacks/Bowers Kendall sale, a Pine Tree threepence from John Kraljevich and a Pine Tree sixpence. That piece had been lot 4017 of the Stacks/Bowers sale of the David Sundman collection. At the sale it was purchased by Tony Terranova. I asked if he bought it for inventory, he said he had, and I said I wanted to buy it, which I did the next day. No, I did not hug Tony this time.

Conclusion

About five years ago I decided that I would sell my colonial coins when I was either 70 or 71. I turned 70 this past May. I knew I would sell the entire collection at auction, during a C4 convention. Makes sense, doesn't it?

If I have any regrets it is that I have never owned a large planchet Pine Tree shilling or a Continental dollar "dream coin." Damn those Rosa and Hibernia patterns!

I cannot end without acknowledging how supportive Chris has been throughout my years as a collector. She has been somewhat remorseful about my decision to sell but, as I said initially, all things must pass and it is time for others to enjoy these gems. I may be giving up the coins, but I will always have the memories and friendships I made along the way.

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⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘

*Editor's Note: In addition to the Extraordinary Merit Awards bestowed by the Numismatic Literary Guild on the works of C4 members, Martin and McDowell, for their respective works, the book chosen as Book of the Year, Truth Seeker: The Life of Eric P. Newman, by Leonard Augsburger, Roger W. Burdette and Joel Orosz, is **about** C4 Honorary Life member, Eric P. Newman. Mark Vitunic recently visited Mr. Newman's St. Louis museum and files the following report.*

NUMISMATIC TRAVELS: COINS OF C4 INTEREST ON DISPLAY AT THE NEWMAN MONEY MUSEUM

(Mark R. Vitunic)

The Newman Money Museum is located in a basement floor wing of the Mildred Lane Kemper Art Museum on the campus of Washington University in St. Louis. The numismatic museum was a gift from numismatic luminary Eric P. Newman and his wife Evelyn to their alma mater and opened in 2007. Admission to the museum is free. I first visited the museum 4 years ago and have been back numerous times since. The exhibits have changed very little in that time-I can recall only two “colonials” which were removed from display, both around the time of the Newman sales in 2014. Described below is a summary of my visit to the museum in September 2016, listing all pre-U.S. mint coinage on display, i.e. “*Red Book* through page 92.”



As you enter the museum, you are greeted by a talking (!) Benjamin Franklin mannequin who continues talking for several minutes on the subject of money and numismatics. Appropriately, just to his left is a wall of cases dedicated to Franklinia. On display in this section are:

- 1776 Continental Currency dollar, “in pewter, mostly tin”, CURRENCY spelling,
- Fugio coppers (2 pieces on display to show both obverse and reverse),
- Franklin Press Tokens (2 pieces on display to show both obverse and reverse),
- Libertas Americana Medal in copper, plus

lots of colonial paper money and modern issues. I can attest that there are no low-grade pieces!

To Franklin’s right a smaller section of the museum is dedicated to Washingtonia. Here you will find:

- 1783 Georgivs Triumpho token,
- 1791 Cents (2 pieces: large eagle date on obverse, small eagle date on reverse),
- 1792 Cents, large eagle (2 pieces on display to show both obverse and reverse),
- 1792 Getz patterns (2 pieces: small eagle copper, small eagle silver, both showing obverses), and
- 1795 Grate token, large buttons.

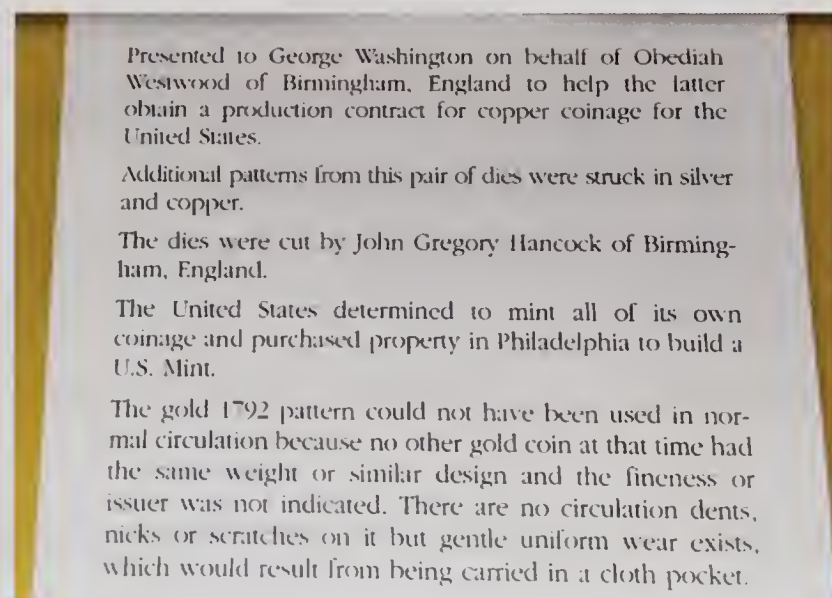
Described and photographed, but missing from the display of Washington pieces, is a 1792 Roman Head cent. That coin sold in a Heritage auction in 2014 for \$102,812.50.

The highlight of the Washington pieces display is the *unique* 1792 WASHINGTON PRESIDENT, Eagle with 13 Stars Reverse, in gold (2017 *Red Book*, page 83). The obverse of the coin is displayed, with enlarged color photos of the obverse and reverse, and a lengthy description. Remarkably this is one of 25 unique “types” listed in the pre-U.S. mint section of the *Red Book*.

Legend has it that this coin was a personal pocket piece of none other than George Washington himself. As well as one can determine looking through the glass, wear is even and consistent with pocket rub.



This is also purportedly the *favorite* coin of Mr. Newman. For someone who once owned an 1804 dollar and all five 1913 Liberty nickels, the word that comes to mind is “Wow”!



The remainder of the museum contains interesting displays on a wide assortment of numismatic topics: women on coins, Native Americans on coins, odd denominations, coin scales, counterfeits, etc. Scattered here you will find:

- (1787-1788) Massachusetts cent and half cent,
- wampum,
- more colonial paper money, and
- a large display of Spanish-American silver.

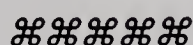
Shown in this display are a large selection of cobs and pillars, pillars and portraits, pieces of eight and fractional denominations, counterstamped bits, and pistareens.

Other “non-*Red Book*” items on display which may be of interest to some C4 members include coinage of the Danish West Indies and a Moses Tolano large token. *Not* on display, despite being written extensively about by Mr. Newman are American Plantation tokens, Virginia halfpennies, Nova Constellatio, nor any of the other state coinages besides Massachusetts. To be fair, this is a *numismatic* museum, not a *colonial numismatics* museum!



The museum also houses an exquisite library with floor-to-ceiling bookshelves containing about a third of Mr. Newman’s numismatic library. This room is not open to the public but you can peak through the door window for a good view of the impressive collection.

In summary: a great little museum, well worth an hour of your time if in the St. Louis area.



[Update] In a Summer, 2014 C4N (vol. 22, no. 4) article, Ray Williams and your editor questioned the 1870 date being assigned to Washington “Repub. Ameri. - Funeral Pennies,” likely stemming from a typographical error in *Medallic Portraits of Washington*, by Russell Rulau and George Fuld. On hearing of this, long-time EAC and recently-joined C4 member, Jack Young, reached out to his contacts at PCGS and NGC. Both acknowledged the error. Nikki Robinson, Tokens and Medals Manager at NGC contacted Washingtonia expert and author, Neil Musante, who noted that the 1796-dated issues appeared in print ca. 1797 and that the undated “Funeral Pennies” appeared in print ca. 1801, with restrikes of either unlikely. He suggested that 1800 be used as the date for the “Funeral Pennies.” As a result, Ms. Robinson stated that NGC will be changing the date from this point forward and any that are returned to them will be considered mechanical errors and will be corrected free of charge. Thanks to Jack, Gordon (Wrubel, of PCGS), Nikki and Neil for helping to resolve this issue.

PATRIOTIC SPANISH COIN-TYPE BUTTONS RECOVERED IN BURLINGTON COUNTY, NJ

(Wayne H. Shelby)

During the early 18th century it was a popular tradition by military personnel and civilians throughout Spain and the New World to adorn their clothing with patriotic coin-type buttons and cuff links.

As stated within the introductory pages of the Official Red Book of United States Coins:

*The Spanish milled dollar, valued at eight reales and otherwise known as the Pillar Dollar or piece of eight, has been given a place in romantic fiction unequalled by any other coin. This time honored piece and its fractional parts (one half, one, two, and four reales) were the principle coins of the American colonists, and were the forerunners of our own silver dollar and its fractional divisions.*¹

An article written by John T. Powell, titled “Patriotic and Commemorative Coat & Cuff Link Buttons,” states the following:

*By far the most commonly used and widely distributed of the types presented were facsimiles of Spanish coinage or miniatures of the Spanish royal crest. Rarely, genuine coins were converted into buttons via the addition of a simple looped wire shank, although this was no doubt a practice reserved for people of above average means. The first of these forms appear to have been introduced during the 1730s, during the reign of Felipe/Phillip V (r. 1700-1746), Spain's first Bourbon king.*²

Powell’s article provides documentation of Spanish coin-cuff link buttons being recovered in various locations throughout the eastern seaboard of colonial North America. Further details revealed these buttons were worn by American colonists during times of tension and thru the War of Independence with Great Britain as symbols of defiance.

¹ Yeoman, R.S., Senior Editor Kenneth Bressett, *A Guide Book of United States Coins, The Official Red Book*, 68th edition, Whitman Publishing, LLC, www.whitman.com, Atlanta, GA, 2015.

² Powell, John T., “Patriotic and Commemorative Coat & Cuff Link Buttons” (website). www.artifacts.org/patriotic.htm (1998-2015), last revised 12/2015.

In November of 2015, I recovered the set of two Spanish Pillar type cuff links, pictured below, near Jobstown, NJ. Close examination reveals that they are made of pewter and/or a combination of low quality base metals. They were manufactured in a one-piece mold with a protruding shank that was later drilled thru by hand, a common practice with early 18th century buttons.

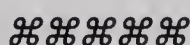
The preservation of the cuff links is exceptional since they were made of a poor base metal material. As a result, such pieces are destined to crack, crumble or disintegrate in most ground found conditions. However, these pieces remained intact with spectacular surfaces and patina.

In the early 1990', I recovered the Regal Spanish Pillar half *real* pictured below near Mt. Holly NJ. The coin reveals button loop attachment marks on the reverse. It is possible the loop broke free of the coin resulting in its loss or it was simply removed so the owner could pass the coin in commerce.



The particulars of the recoveries are as follows:

- Top row: Two Pewter Spanish Pillar Type Cuff Links Dated 1744: Engraved with the most common Mint mark "Mexico City" however, it is interesting to note the letter "M" to the left of the date excludes the super-imposed "o" and the letter "M" to the right of the date is upside down. These well done facsimiles are 12 millimeters in diameter, 22.5 and 23.8 grains in weight, respectively.
- Bottom row: Regal Spanish Pillar ½ *Real* Dated 1744: Mexico City Mint mark with moderate to heavy wear, 16 millimeters in diameter, 24.2 grains in weight.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Heads up! The dates for our convention this year are 3-6 November 2016. Block it now in your calendars!



ANNOUNCING A NEW-OLD BOOK ON THE 1787 FUGIO COPPERS!!

Many long-term C4 members remember the late Rob Retz with affection. Most collectors know that when he passed away in 2004 he left behind a book on the 1787 Fugio coppers, something he had worked on for several years, with access to some of the largest collections of the series yet formed. The book was nearly ready for publication at that time, but Rob's final months were – understandably! – spent with family and friends, and numismatics was not as pressing as it had been before. The non-publication of this book was a loss to the colonial hobby, even though a few years later the new edition of Eric Newman's work on the Fugio coppers did see print. In helping to write and edit the Newman book, John Kraljevich made the decision not to use any of the material Rob had put together for his own book, in the hope that Rob's work would soon be published. Unfortunately that was not the case, and the book remained dormant for a decade.

It is with great pleasure that we announce that Rob's book has finally been published. Through the generosity of Syd Martin and Tony Terranova, who underwrote the printing costs, this work is now available to collectors. This 162-page book gives detailed information on every variety of Fugio copper, along with high quality photographs, a detailed introduction by the editor, die state information, attribution tips and an appendix examining Dr. Hall's collection of Fugio coppers. The heart of Rob's book though is the Condition Census information he compiled, with examples graded by him and named to the collections in which they were then held; all this information was state of the art at the time, not available anywhere else, and it was felt that it would be useful to collectors to have it in print. While the book itself is a testimonial to Rob Retz, it is more than a museum piece – it should be quite useful to today's collector, and blends perfectly with the Newman book. With these two references and a handful of major auction catalogues the collector will have everything needed to pursue this series.

The book itself has been a labor of love, something of a rarity in numismatics. Extensively edited *pro bono* by Jeff Rock, with all-new photographs contributed through the kindness of Stack's-Bowers and a handful of collectors and distributed for free by Charles Davis, ALL sales proceeds – not just the profits, but every penny! – go to the Rob Retz Memorial Fund set up with C4 to further work with Young Numismatists, the very future of our hobby, and a cause near to Rob's heart.

The book is being released in a limited edition of just 90 perfect-bound, soft-covered copies, along with 10 special edition hardcover copies for a total press run of just 100 books. These will be available at the 2016 C4 Convention in Baltimore at the table of Charles Davis. Pricing details have not been finalized as of this time, but the book will be UNDER \$50, which is an amazing price for a book full of photos and this kind of information. Because of the small press run it is quite likely that most (if not all) copies will actually be sold at this convention. If you are unable to attend this year's convention and want a copy of this book, you should contact Charles Davis to make sure one is reserved for you (as Charles is distributing the book for free he will need to add postage costs to any book mailed out instead of picked up in person). Charles can be reached by email at: numislit@aol.com.

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE SOUGHT

I'm currently undertaking a comprehensive study of the Castorland jeton. I'm approaching the study from both sides of the Atlantic, relying heavily on French sources, and my study entails operational details from the manufacture of flans to the mechanical workings of the screw press; the history of jetons as they evolved from arithmetical counters to monarchical presentation pieces; events leading up to the establishment of the New York Company; the biography of Benjamin Duvivier; etc. culminating in detailed descriptions of variants struck from at least one original die. As you can see it's a big work, but I've been at it quite a few years and am wonderfully engaged in the project. Here is a "finding list" of details I'm looking for, as well as photos if possible:

1. If the specimen is in a slab, all the label information.
2. Identify the metal, gold, silver, copper, bronze. If silver, indicate thin or thick planchet.
3. If edge-stamped, identify the symbol and the lettering and location of the stamping (such as 6 o'clock relative the obverse.)
4. Die alignment: coin turn/medal turn.
5. Describe state of any reverse die failure, perceptible bulge, advanced crack, etc.
6. Describe reverse caustic incursion, sometimes identified as rust, at the right handle of the vessel.
7. Describe any other identifying factors such a rim bumps, scratches, spots, unfilled letters of legends, etc. that would help identify the piece if it were re-encapsulated at some future time.
8. Indicate the provenance, if known. If you currently own the specimen feel free to identify it ex your name for the benefit of future owners.

Please contact Chester L. Sullivan at csull@ku.edu

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THE C4 NEWSLETTER IS ON THE NEWMAN NUMISMATIC PORTAL!

Past issues of The C4 Newsletter, and a plethora of other important numismatic resources are now available online, through The Newman Numismatic Portal, at:

www.archive.org/details/newmannumismatic

COMPLETE C4 NEWSLETTER CDs FOR SALE

C4 is making available on CD of a complete set of *C4 Newsletters* from 1993 (vol.1, no.1) through 2011 (vol.19, no. 4). The format is a fully searchable PDF files, which makes life and research much easier. Thanks to Randy Clark, Ray Williams and Gary Trudgen for their vision and extremely hard work, which now lets us offer these wonderful research tools to you for \$50 plus \$4.00 p&h for members or \$75 plus \$4.00 p&h for non-members. To order, please contact either (a) Wayne Shelby at dughistory@juno.com or at P.O. Box 568 Rancocas, NJ 08073 or (b) Charlie Rohrer at RohrerC@cadmus.com or at P.O. Box 25 Mountville, PA 17554. Please send your check made out to C4 to Charlie Rohrer at the above address.

I need help in a project that will turn into a *C4 Newsletter* article on estimating the surviving population of State Coinages. I am developing a model but need to better understand how many NJ coppers collectors hold. Only aggregated data will be used. I am looking for information on total number of NJ coppers, number recovered (dug), number purchased, and number sold in last 12 months or longer periods if available. I am looking for data from any size collections or accumulations.

J. Howes; 19967 East Doyle; Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236; 313 319-1743

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Obtaining Back Copies of C4 Newsletter and C4 Auction Catalogues

Wayne Shelby has agreed to store the back copies of the *C4 Newsletter*. People wishing to purchase back issues that are still available should send their money to our treasurer, Charlie Rohrer, whose contact data are at page 2. Upon receipt of the money, he will contact Wayne, who will mail out the material. Back copies of the *Newsletter* are \$10 for the first and \$8 for all after that placed at the same time. If you have questions of what material is available, you can contact Wayne at:

P.O. Box 568
Rancocas, NJ 08073-956

dughistory@juno.com
609-261-6662 (Home)

C4 Offers Important Colonial Books

For more information on the following books, published by the Colonial Coin Collectors Club (C4), visit the C4 website at www.colonialcoins.org. These books may be ordered directly from: Charles Davis' website: www.numisbook.com.

(1) Carlotto, Tony, *The Copper Coins of Vermont and Those Bearing the Vermont Name*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 1998. Price: \$165.

(2) Jordan, Lou. *John Hull, The Mint, and The Economics of Massachusetts Coinage*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2002. Price: \$10.

(3) McDowell, Christopher R., *Abel Buell and the History of the Connecticut and Fugio Coinages*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2015. Price \$85.

(4) Martin, Sydney. *French Coinage Specifically for Colonial America*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2016. Price \$85.

(5) Martin, Sydney. *The Hibernia Coinage of William Wood (1722-1724)*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2007. Price: \$85.

(6) Martin, Sydney. *The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2012. Price \$85.

(7) Siboni, Roger S., Howes, Jack L. and Ish, A. Buell, *New Jersey State Coppers. History. Description. Collecting.*, The American Numismatic Society and Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2013. Price: \$195.

(8) Vlack, Robert. *An Illustrated Catalogue of the French Billon Coinage in the Americas*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2004. Price: \$50.

The Daniel Frank Sedwick database of fake cobs is now on ForgeryNetwork :

<http://www.forgerynetwork.com/default.aspx?keyword=cob> ..

<http://www.forgerynetwork.com/asset.aspx?id=QEjfd5ZR~x~8>=

C4 Membership Dues

Annual dues are currently \$30.00 for Regular Membership (\$40 if residing outside the United States) and \$10.00 for Junior Membership (under 18 years of age; \$15 is non US resident). They are payable on a calendar year basis... due January 1. The year through which you are paid appears after your name on the mailing address label on the *C4 Newsletter* envelope. Life Memberships can be purchased for 25 times the annual membership cost, or \$750.00. You may mail checks (made out to "C4") to:

Charlie Rohrer, C4 Treasurer
PO Box 25
Mountville, PA 17554

Thank you for paying in a timely manner... It makes his job easier and will be much appreciated!

NEW RESOURCE FOR THE C4 NEWSLETTER

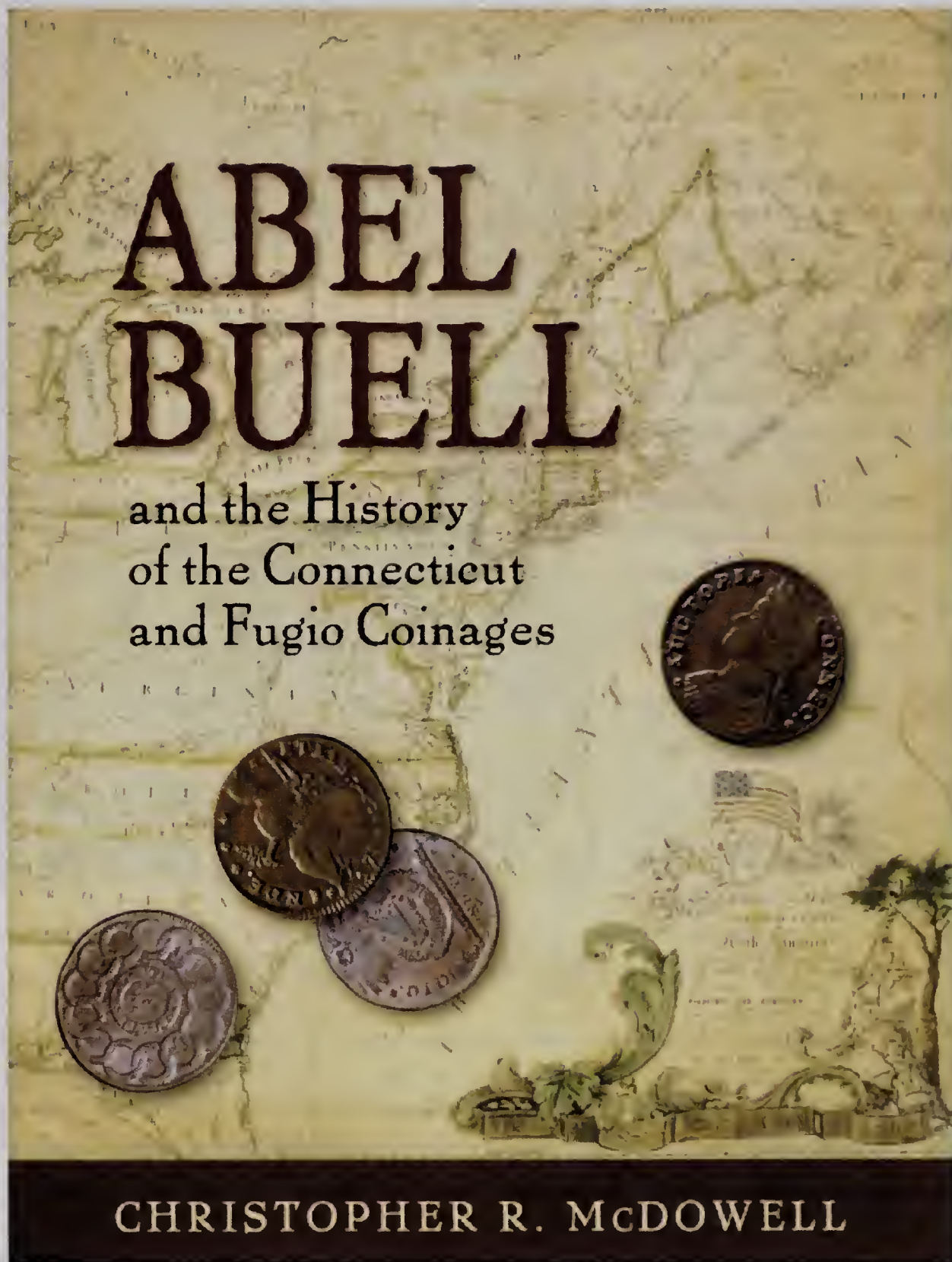
Our C4 Newsletter now has an index available on our website at www.colonialcoins.org. There are actually two indexes: one by author and a second by topic/title. This is a beginning and the index will improve over time. We have intentions of updating the index within a week or two of every issue being shipped. We ask past authors and contributors to the C4N to please review their work in the index and forward any corrections/additions/suggestions to Ray Williams at njraywms@optonline.net or give a call.

PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

In accordance with our by-laws, those who have recently joined C4 as provisional members are listed below. If any current C4 member in good standing has a reason any of the following should be denied membership in C4, please contact either your Regional VP or the President of the Club, Jim Rosen. The new provisional members, with their home states, are :

- Martin Baker - NC
- Mike Carolan - NV
- John Lorenzo - NJ
- Dan Smith – CA
- Richard White - TN

Support the C4 Club education initiatives buy this book:



In stock from Charles Davis Numismatic Literature:

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Wenham, MA 01984

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or via email: charlesdavis@vcoins.com

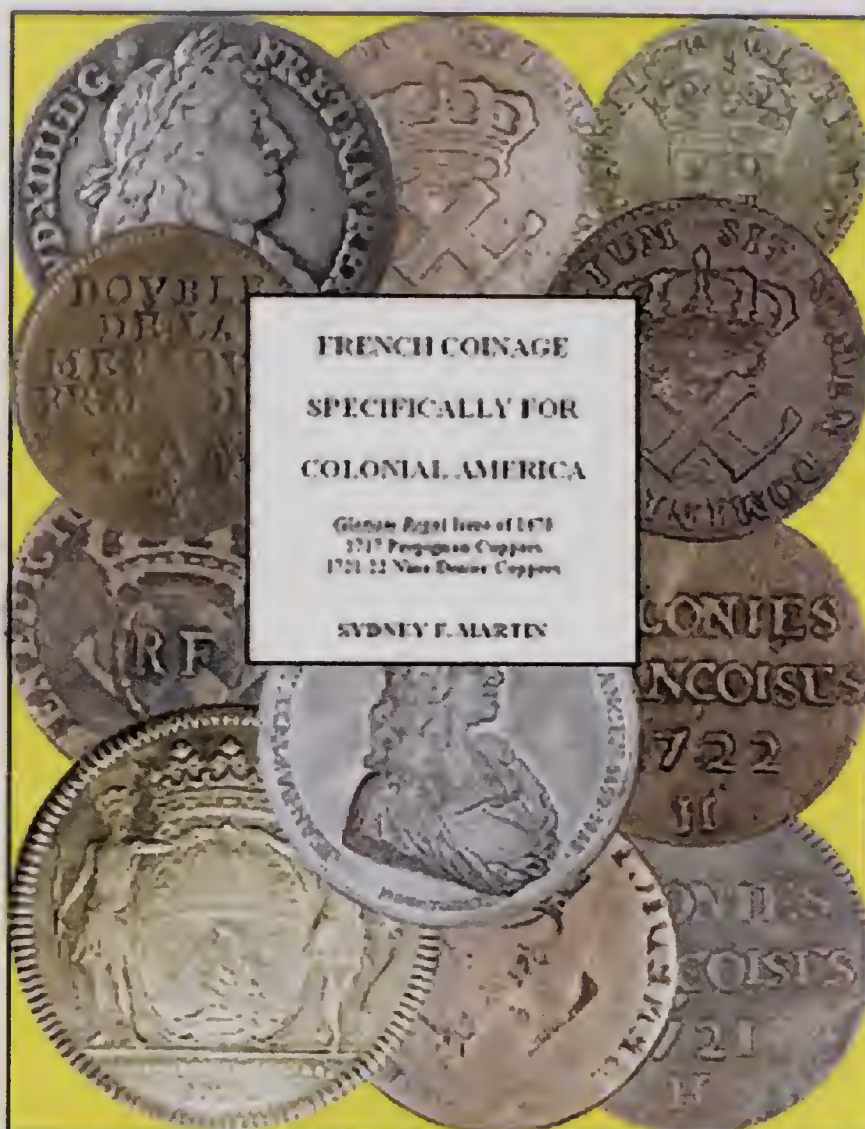
NEW BOOK: FRENCH COINAGE SPECIFICALLY FOR COLONIAL AMERICA

The Colonial Coin Collectors Club, C4, released Sydney F. Martin's latest book, *French Coinage Specifically For Colonial America*. This is the third colonial coin book published by C4 written by Syd Martin. Other works include *The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood* and *The Hibernia Coinage of William Wood*. The Rosa and Hibernia books are now considered standard references for those coinages and Syd's long awaited new book is expected to become the leading reference works on French Coinage minted for circulation in North America.

According to Lou Jordan, the curator of numismatic collections for the University of Notre Dame, "Sid Martin has written the definitive catalog of French coinage authorized specifically for use in North America." Jordan went on to state that "this is an essential book for anyone interested in the French coinage of colonial North America."

"What many early American coin collectors fail to recognize," Martin said upon the book's release, "is that from the 16th century until 1763, New France included much of what is now the United States, as well as most of Canada. As such, coins minted by France for circulation in its North American colonies should be considered 'coins of the realm' in these areas." Colonial numismatic expert, John Kraljevich, went on to explain that "the history of the French in what is today the United States is largely forgotten. However, the memory of these people and their coinage has been long cherished in Canada."

Jim Rosen, president of C4, predicts that "Martin's new book will awaken an interest in both the history of the French speaking people in North American and the coins they used such as the Gloriam Regni coins of 1670, the 6 and 12-denier copper coins minted in 1717, and the copper 9-denier coins from 1721 and 22, all of which were struck in France specifically for circulation in the Americas."



In the book’s introduction, John Kraljevich writes that, “With Crosby-like flair, Syd has marshaled together the original documents that tell the stories of these coinages. Most have never been published at all, let alone in English or all in one place. This original research guarantees this work’s importance to researchers in every forthcoming generation. The heart of this book, the die studies, offers several pathways for collectors to navigate these series, by basic type, by major variety, by die combination, or even by die state. It’s a project that no one has ever even attempted before, an outlier in the world of colonial numismatics, a field that has seen multiple die studies of most of the popular series. Given Syd’s well-organized approach and the thousands of coins he’s studied, it may be generations before this work is supplanted. It’s doubtful anyone will ever do it any better.”

The 480 page book is hardbound, well-illustrated throughout with photographs of the different coin varieties examined, with dust jacket depicting French Coinage. The book is available for \$85.00 plus \$7.00 shipping from bookseller Charles Davis, (<http://www.numisbook.com/>), Box 1, Wenham, MA 01984, or telephone 978.468-2933.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Due to increased publications and mailing costs, the charge for half and full-page ads will increase for Volume 24. The new rates are shown below. These rates are still below comparable newsletters.

Grayscale ads for this newsletter can be purchased as follows (color ads are 50% more in each category):

	1 issue	2 issues	3 issues	4 issues	Copy Size
1 page	\$300	\$450	\$600	\$750	6" x 9"
1/2 page	\$175	\$250	\$325	\$400	6" x 4.5"

Covers cost somewhat more (please inquire – generally \$200 additional). If you want to include a photo with your ad there will be an additional \$10 charge. A black and white photo will be needed, but the size can be adjusted. Please send check with your ad. We accept camera-ready copy or any Microsoft Word compatible computer file.

All members also have the right to include a free classified ad in the newsletter of up to 10 lines of text.

NOTICE: The Colonial Coin Collectors Club does not review the ads provided for accuracy, nor does it assess any items offered for sale relative to authenticity, correct descriptions, or the like. C4 is not to be considered a party to any transactions occurring between members based on such ads, and will in no way be responsible to either the buyer or seller.

I am in the process of researching information pertaining to the Talbot, Allum & Lee series. I am seeking assistance from C-4 members who may have knowledge regarding the evolution of the series and the coins that were issued. I possess the basic series including all mules. If you have any unique or off metal pieces, or a half cent struck over a Talbot piece I would love to have access to them if possible.

Please contact Arnold Miniman at ahminiman@gmail.com, or (201)317-4199.

LOST CENTS, DEAD OWNERS: Appreciating Coins in Decay.

If you want to read something totally different and a bit radical, I think you will enjoy my new book. It is a heartfelt exploration of history as told by coins lost in the dirt. The book also explains how old coppers decay when confronted with Mother Nature. Finally, I examine the aesthetics of corrosion, born of the conflict between nature and man (wherein nature wins). Check it out & enjoy a great weekend read.

My book is available from Books123.org or from other Internet sellers like Amazon.com. It costs \$24.95 (less than a corroded Draped Bust cent).

Thanks. Michael S. Shutty, Jr.

Complete Set of 24 Ford Sale Catalogs

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COLONIAL VIRGINIA COPPERS: I am collecting all information, images and data on colonial Virginian coppers. Please share with me your photos of counterstamped, defaced, or unusual coppers. In addition copies of any stories, old newsprint articles or papers relating to the Virginians would be appreciated. Thank you. You can contact me at rogermoore435@yahoo.com. Thank you!! Roger Moore

SELLING OFF SOME DUPLICATES TO A GOOD HOME

I have the following duplicate coins that I will sell or trade for. Grading is conservative.

Email me for detailed description, prices and photos. Leo Shane Email

<Leo J Shane@hotmail.com>

1787 CT M.1.1-A Small Head one is F-15 (many auctions sell these as VF)

1787 CT M1.1-A Small Heard F (many auctions sell these as F-15)

1785 VT RY 6 Vermontensium Landscape VG-10

1787 VT RY-13 Britianna F

1787 VT RY-14 Mailed Bust Right VG

1788 MA RY-6N Without Period F-15

1787 Nova Eborac Crosby 1-B, Rev Figure Left VF-30/VF

"Colonial, cut, countermarked and Caribbean coins (and some other odds and ends as well). I am starting to sell a few pieces and have put up a website to that end. Please take a look at eastrockcoins.com. Peter Griffin."

For sale: digitally re-mastered 1882 Maris NJ copper plates; reduced to an 8½x11 format while still retaining the resolution (photographic) of the originals. All new varieties discovered since Maris, have been added in the Maris style. Also added are rarity and condition census range for each variety [figure]. The two plates are in one archival sheet protector. I keep this right next to my desktop and it is the first thing I look for if I can't id a NJ by sight. Cost \$20 plus \$5.75 for mailing.



J. Howes; 19967 East Doyle; Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236; 313 319-1743

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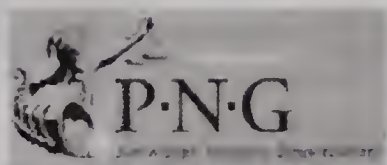
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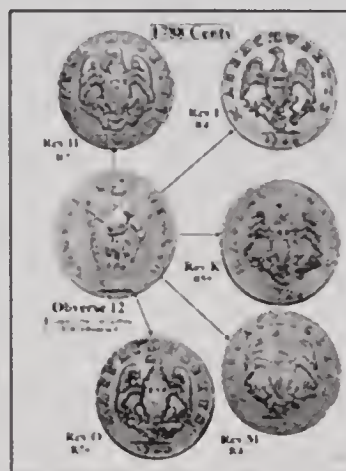
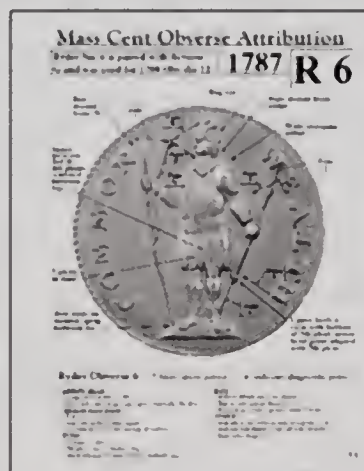
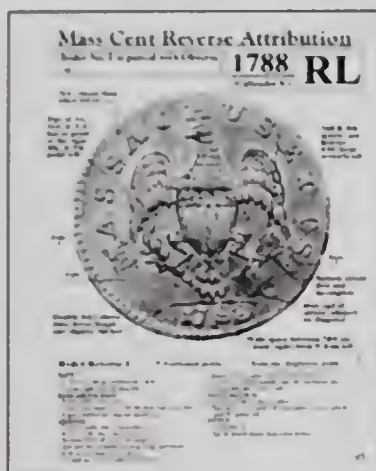


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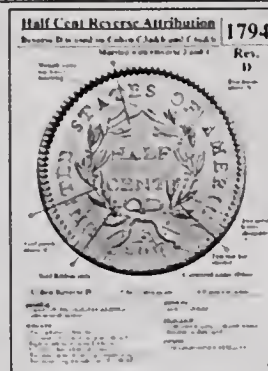
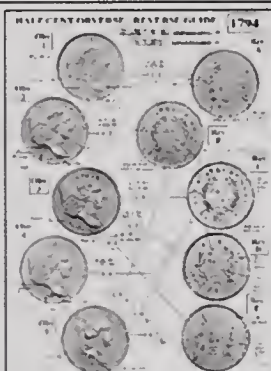
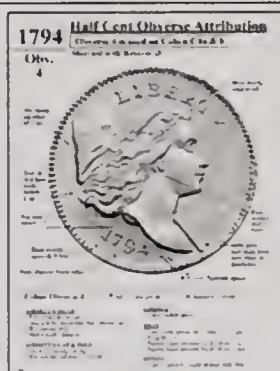
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